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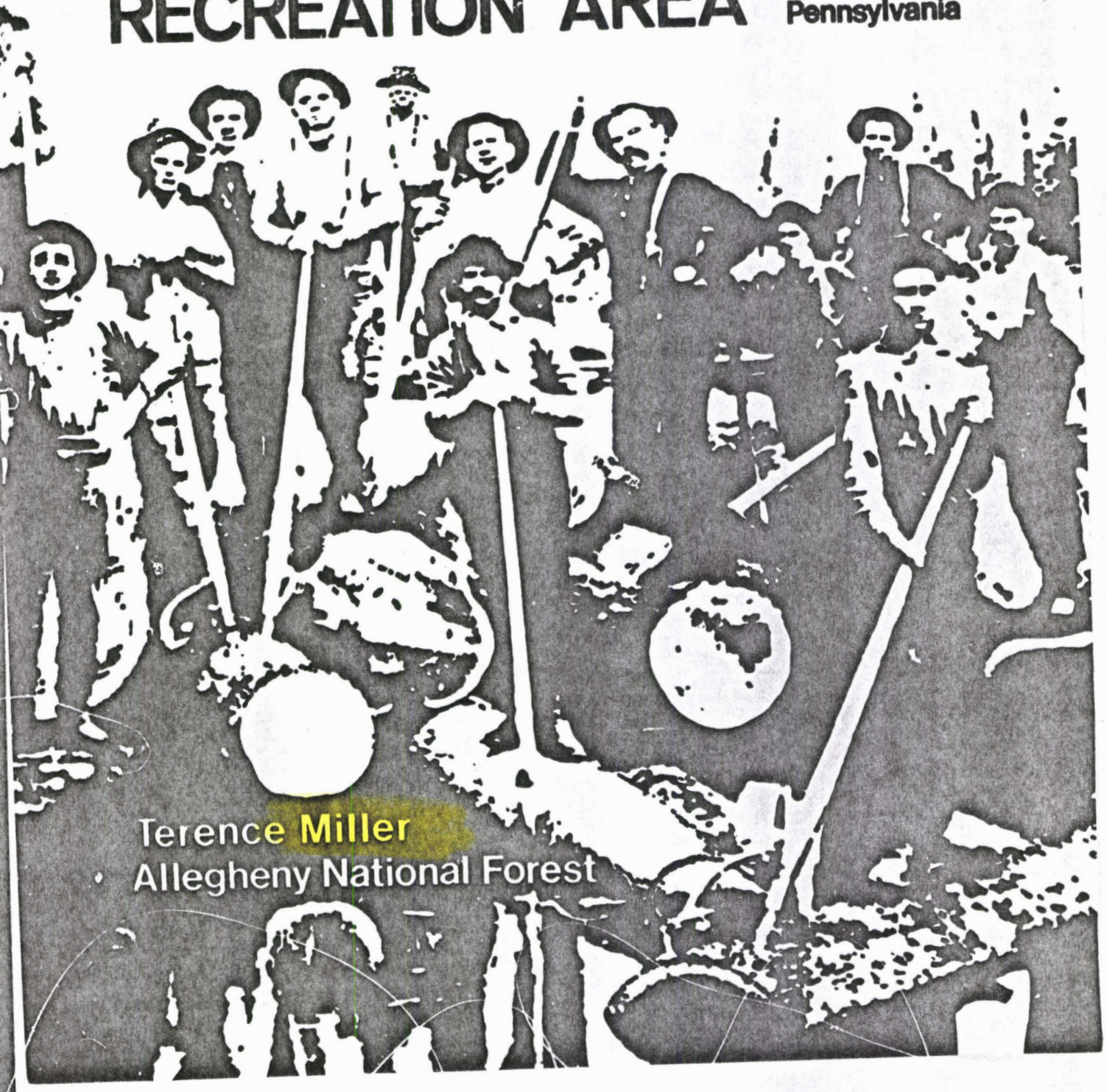
HISTORICAL INTERPRETIVE PLAN FOR LOLETA RECREATION AREA

Interpreting The Former Logging Town Of Loleta, Pennsylvania



Terence Miller
Allegheny National Forest

A PLAN TO INTERPRET
THE HISTORICAL RESOURCE AT
LOLETA RECREATION AREA

An Interpretive Management Plan
for the Former Logging Town of
Loleta, Pennsylvania

Completed in Partial Fulfillment of
the Recreation Management Short Course
at Clemson University
by

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March, 1987

ABSTRACT

The report addresses the subject of interpretive opportunities in the area of cultural resource management by focusing on a specific opportunity at a National Forest recreation site. Loleta Recreation Area occupies a site that was a bustling logging town of 600 inhabitants from 1899 to 1913. The paper examines the opportunity to interpret the former town of Loleta. The history of the Loleta site is reviewed. This is followed by an examination of existing laws, regulations, and policies in the areas of cultural resource management and interpretive services. Current laws and regulations are reviewed in order to resolve whether the interpretation of historic and cultural resources is legal and appropriate. Various interpretive methods are considered for the Loleta historic site, and an interpretive management plan is proposed.

DISCLAIMER

This paper was prepared as a student project in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Professional Development for Outdoor Recreation Management program at Clemson University. It in no way reflects USDA Forest Service policy nor are the opinions expressed those of anyone other than the author.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Part 1

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Introduction

The National Forests east and west of the Mississippi have distinctly different recreation qualities based on their historical nature. Recreation management of western National Forests often emphasizes their natural scenic beauty and opportunities for escape and solitude. Rugged mountain ridges loom over landscapes that have been virtually untouched by man. Much of this land was passed up by settlers on their way west. With the passage of the Forest Reserve Act in 1891, these "unclaimed" lands were consolidated into "Forest Reserves". They eventually evolved into our western National Forests. They are true wildernesses. It is right and proper that recreation managers should manage these lands in a way that optimizes and enhances their primitive qualities.

Though scenic, eastern Forests on the whole do not match the majestic beauty of western National Forests. They do however have one particular quality that makes them unique from western National Forests. **They are historic forests**. This fact has been largely overlooked in Forest Service recreation management.

As in the west, the eastern Forests were "assembled from land that nobody wanted" (Shands and Healy, 1977) but with one key difference. Many western Forests were never settled by the white man. On the other hand, most of the eastern Forests were heavily settled, used up, and then discarded. For a hundred years or more, the settlers and the timber industry had their way with the land. They made a heavy mark. Millions of acres were shorn of timber, then left to erode or burn. Other eastern land was cleared for agriculture, farmed for a period of time, and abandoned. Millions of acres of this marginal agricultural land have since reverted to forest. When the Weeks Act of 1911 empowered the federal government to purchase these "forested, cutover, or denuded lands" east of the Mississippi, the eastern National Forests were created.

The eastern National Forests have a story to tell. They were settled and farmed within the last 300 years. Families were born and raised on this land. Settlers died and were buried here. And there are abundant clues to this recent activity. On a casual walk through an eastern National Forest, a visitor might cross an old wagon path or railroad grade, or traverse an old cornfield, or pass by an old sawmill site, whiskey still, or homestead.... and not even notice.

The Forest Service has been reluctant to view historic sites as interpretive opportunities or recreation management challenges. A passive management approach has been followed. The typical management action has been to merely avoid disturbing known sites and keep their locations confidential. We have been slow to seize the initiative in the management

of our cultural resources. This paper will examine that tendency, and suggest an alternative management philosophy by examining an opportunity at a specific historical site.

Description of the Project Proposal

Loleta Recreation Area was constructed in the 1930s by the CCC on the site where, just 20 years earlier, a bustling logging town of 600 inhabitants had stood. Today, traces of the former town's existence have become obscured to the untrained eye, but throughout Loleta exists an abundance of clues to its history. Most visitors to Loleta are unaware of the history of the site. Once told, however, they become very interested in knowing more.

National Forest direction on management of identified historical sites has been unclear and sometimes contradictory. On one hand, educational and interpretive uses are encouraged by policy. On the other hand, requirements for protection of historical sites and bad experiences with "pot-hunters" have caused many Forest Service managers to become gun-shy about directing public attention to historical sites. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 is an example of legislation that contains seemingly contradictory direction. The original act encourages the identification, enhancement, and interpretation of potential National Register sites, but an amendment to the same act cautions against disclosure of information about historic sites to the public.

The opportunity still exists at Loleta to compile a wealth of information about the town and to interpret it for the public. A handful of people are

still alive who can vividly remember details about the former town. Some have kept photographs and other valuable memorabilia. These people however are in their 70s and 80s. As this generation passes and the vegetation continues to overtake the site, the opportunity can become more and more difficult to seize. The level of interest in Loleta among visitors to the campground seems to justify making that effort now.

Some of the questions and issues involved in this opportunity are:

- Should the Forest Service interpret the Loleta site? If so, how should it be done? Should we merely post a few informational plaques around the site, or construct a trail, or install a visitor center?

- Would such a proposal comply with Forest Service direction regarding management of cultural resources?

- Would increased public awareness cause an increase in vandalism, disturbance of sites, and theft of artifacts at the Loleta site? Or would it reduce site disturbance by increasing the public's appreciation of the historical value of the site?

The objectives of this paper are to:

1. Review the history of the Loleta site (Part 2).
2. Examine Forest Service policies regarding cultural resource management and interpretive services (Part 3).

3. Justify to the reader the feasibility of an interpretive management plan for the Loleta site.

4. Discuss the interpretive management options for Loleta and the rationale for selection of the preferred options (Part 4).

5. Present a comprehensive plan to construct the appropriate facilities for interpretation at the Loleta historical site (Part 5).

Description of the Audience

The primary audience for this paper is the Marienville District Ranger; district recreation personnel; and the Forest Supervisor and Recreation staff on the Allegheny National Forest. These are the people who would be responsible for implementing this site-specific plan to interpret a valuable historical site. The paper proposes a plan to interpret the history of the former town of Loleta for visitors to Loleta Recreation Area. The desired final product is a site-specific plan to walk the visiting public through the history of Loleta. This plan will be in sufficient detail that district personnel can use it to begin constructing some form of interpretive facility (after data-gathering and funding approval have been accomplished).

A secondary audience is the group of cultural resource managers at the Forest and Regional levels, particularly in Regions 8 and 9. This report may have limited applicability outside of the eastern forest area, due to the different nature of cultural resources in the west. For managers in historic eastern Forests, it suggests a pro-active attitude and philosophy: National Forests should manage archeological sites in a way that enhances their value and the values of affected recreation resources. The

discussion might be valuable to some who are unsure about how to manage similar sites in their area. Some may benefit from the examination of regional and national policy.

Part 2

HISTORY OF LOLETA

Loleta: The Town

In 1898 land was cleared on a site along Millstone Creek six miles south of Marienville, Pennsylvania. A large sawmill was built to process logs from a huge tract of forest land that had been purchased by C.W. Amsler and J.C. Campbell. A town was laid out and structures built to provide for the needs of a large workforce. The mill and railroad tracks to Loleta (from Sheffield) were completed in 1899 and the mill began sawing lumber.

"A shingle mill, heading mill, and broom-handle factory were added soon after. By December (of 1899) the town numbered 29 dwellings, two boarding houses, a schoolhouse, livery stable, ice house, store, blacksmith shop, and post office. A dam had been built on the East Branch of Millstone Creek to form a large mill pond heated by steam from the mill" (Casler, 1973). It is presumed that the mill pond was heated to prevent freezing during the winter when logs still needed to be floated into the mill.

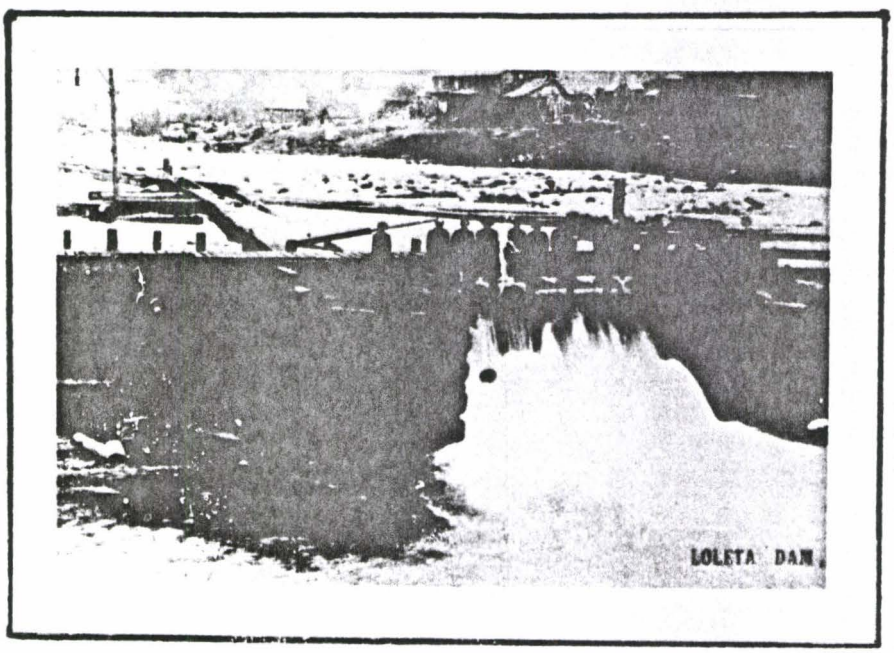


FIGURE 1: Loleta dam (1900)

On a cold winter day in February 1913 the mill sawed its last log and shut down. The people gradually moved elsewhere to seek employment and the town became deserted. Eventually the buildings were torn down or fell down, and the forest reclaimed the site.

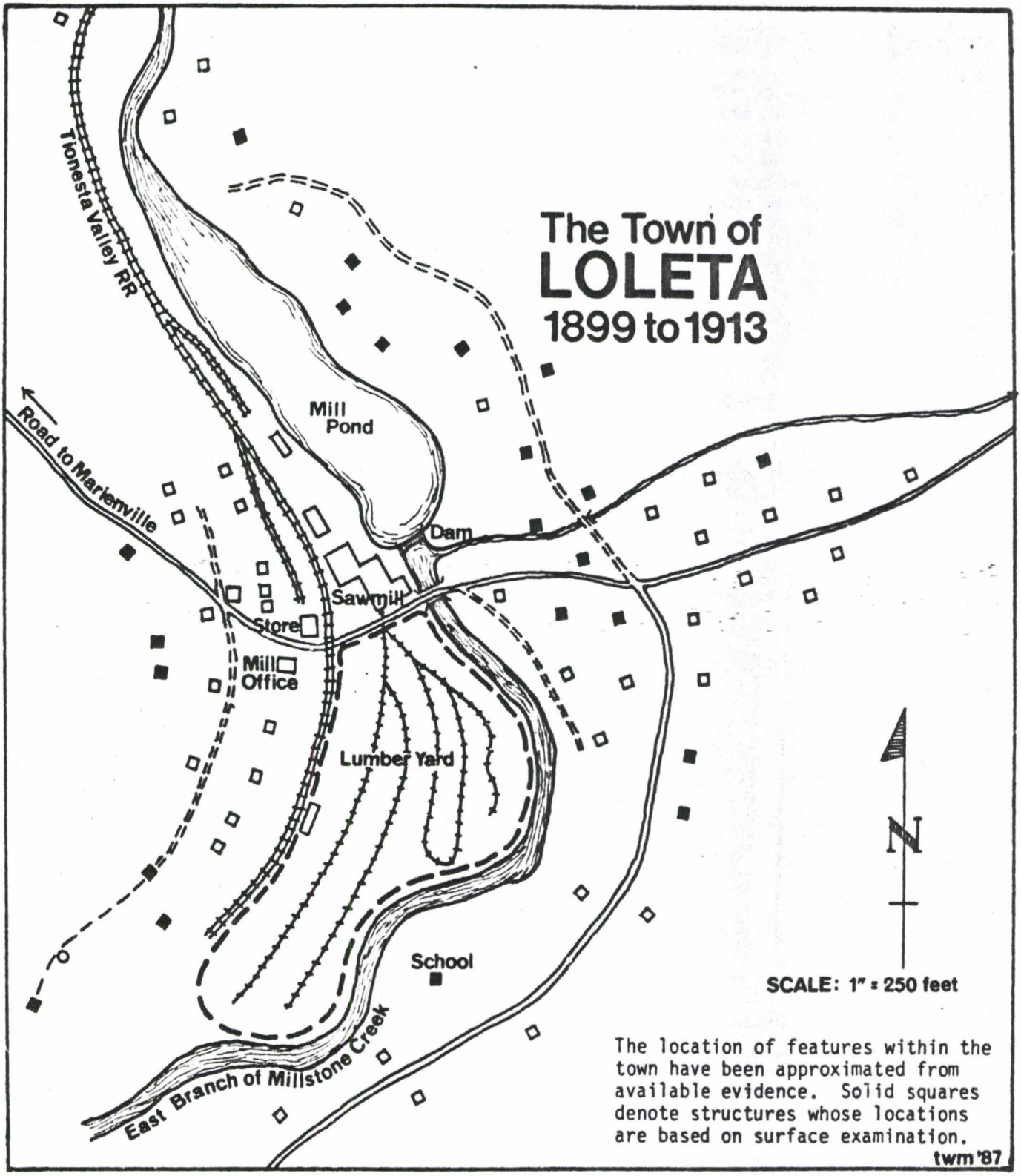
Archeologist Martin McAllister describes the town of Loleta:

> "Loleta seems to have had a brief but lively history, though, in and of itself, it was probably not very different from many other logging towns that sprang up rapidly and then disappeared just as rapidly after the timber was gone."

From a variety of sources one can reconstruct a decent record of what happened at this lonely streamside site between 1898 when Loleta was born and 1913 when it died. Information can be gathered and organized that answers the questions of how Loleta came to be, what life in the town was like, and why it disappeared. The sources include historical magazine articles, letters, photographs, interviews with surviving residents, and study of the site itself. Many of these sources are cited in the bibliography, and some are contained in the Appendix.

From available information, the author has been able to reconstruct a rough map of the town of Loleta. This is shown in Figure 2 on the next page. Further examination of the site and a cultural resource survey will undoubtedly refine the locations of many landmarks of the former town.

Figure 2: Town of Loleta



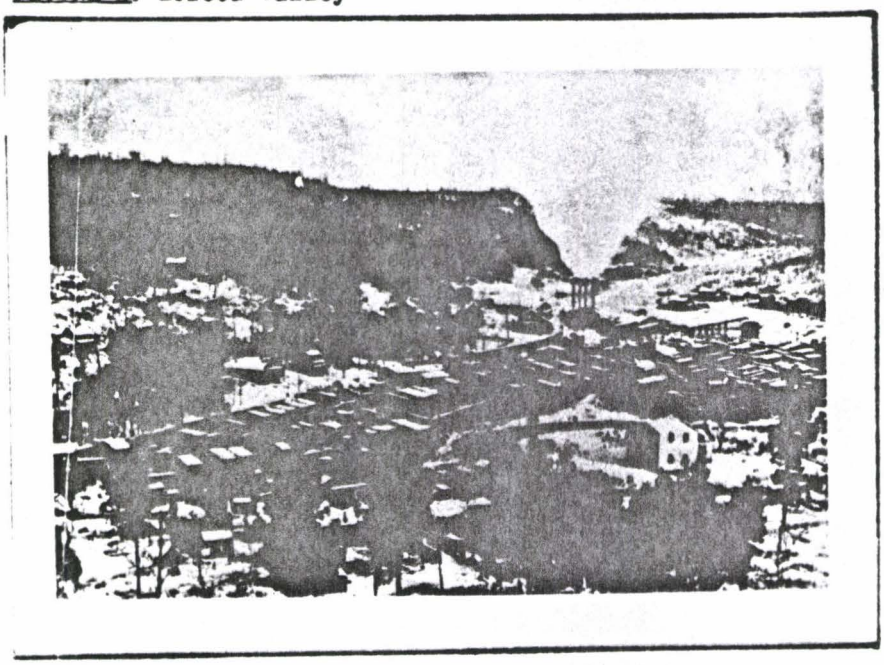
What follows is a chronological montage of excerpts, photographs, quotes, and anecdotes that will give the reader a sense of the history and flavor of life in Loleta.

"Loleta, once a busy logging town, is now a ghost town. No longer does the roar of the saw, as it chews its way through the log, shatter the silence of the hills. The scream of the planer like a wild animal in pain is silenced, and no longer do the young men gather outside the store in the evening to ogle at the women who come to get mail or to make some very important purchase, which couldn't possibly wait until morning" (Mrs. John F. Kuhn, 1975).

1900: "(Loleta) lay in a valley between hills rising abruptly on both sides, with a few houses perched precariously on the slopes, from which long flights of steps led down to the road" (Mrs. John F. Kuhn, 1975).

"The road from Marienville wound around a hill, passed the store and mill office, crossed the railroad tracks, dipped sharply down, ...passed the lonely Hefron farm, and led on to Clarington. All the houses in the town faced on this road except a few scattered dwellings, that followed the banks of the creek on both sides of the bridge" (Mrs. John F. Kuhn, 1975).

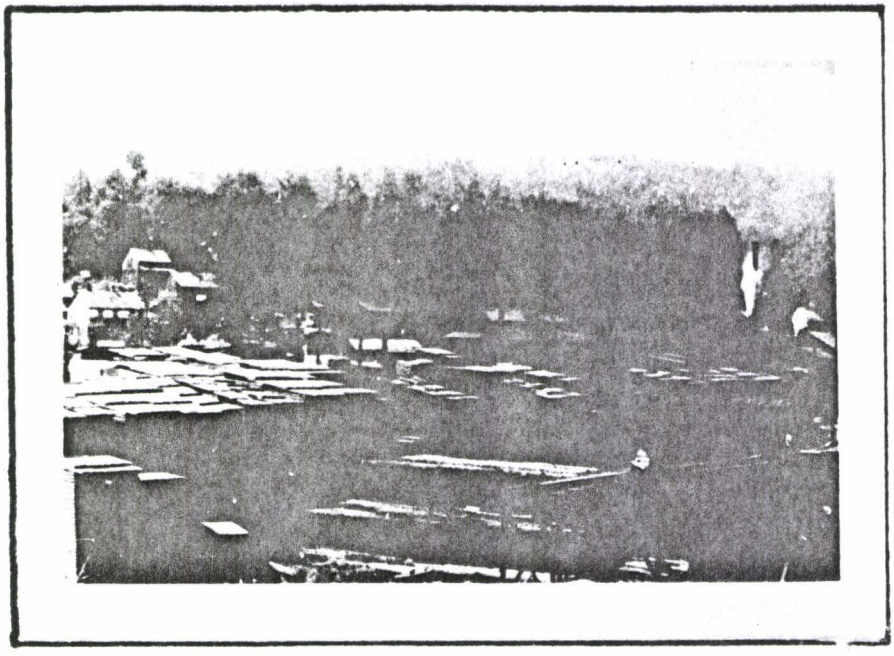
FIGURE 3: Loleta Valley



"The houses were of one pattern, unpainted, two-story company houses, put together as cheaply as possible with no lath or plaster or plumbing of any kind. Water was carried in from wells or pumps. The little house at the rear was accepted without question. Some people living in this community did not know that there was anything different. Bathing facilities consisted of the

family washtubs. Some genius had rigged up a shower with hot and cold running water, piped from the mill boiler into a bath house used only by those contributing to the project" (Mrs. Juhn F. Kuhn, 1975).

FIGURE 4: Loleta Mill and Houses



1902: "In 1902 the extract factory moved to West Virginia and Col. Amsler got father to go to Loleta and work at 'dropping lumber' (loading it on railroad cars) until there was an opening in the Boiler House as a fireman. He bought 500 used brick for the chimney of the house he built in Loleta" (N.A. Bashline, 1973).

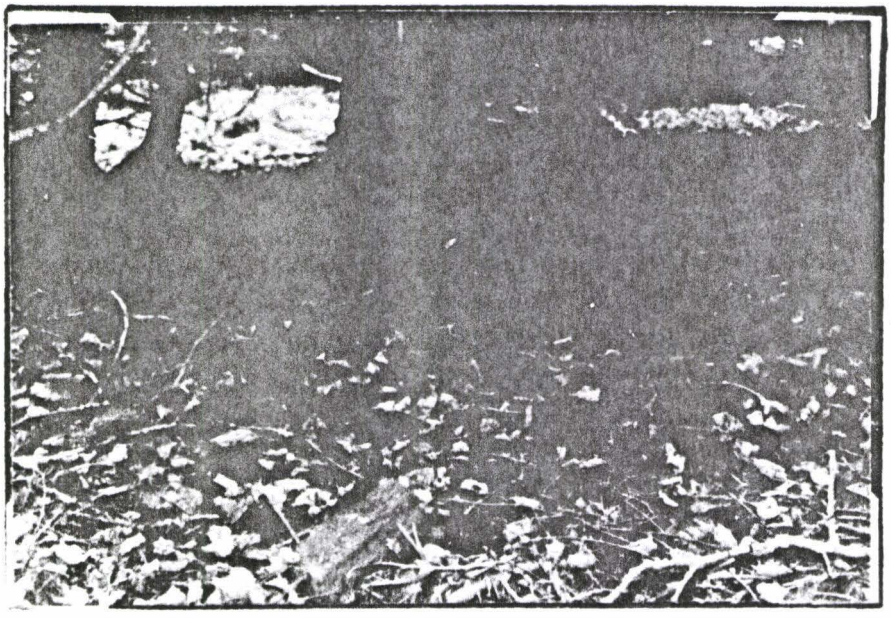


FIGURE 5: Old bricks in the Loleta picnic area on the site of what was once probably a house with chimney

1902: While in Loleta there was a terrible forest fire. It raged all day. Papa told mama to pack some things and get ready to leave. They brought in a trainload of Italians...to help fight the fire. (Gertrude can remember looking out the window and seeing the strange men.) They watered down the roofs in the main part of town to prevent sparks from starting fires" (N.A. Bashline, 1973).

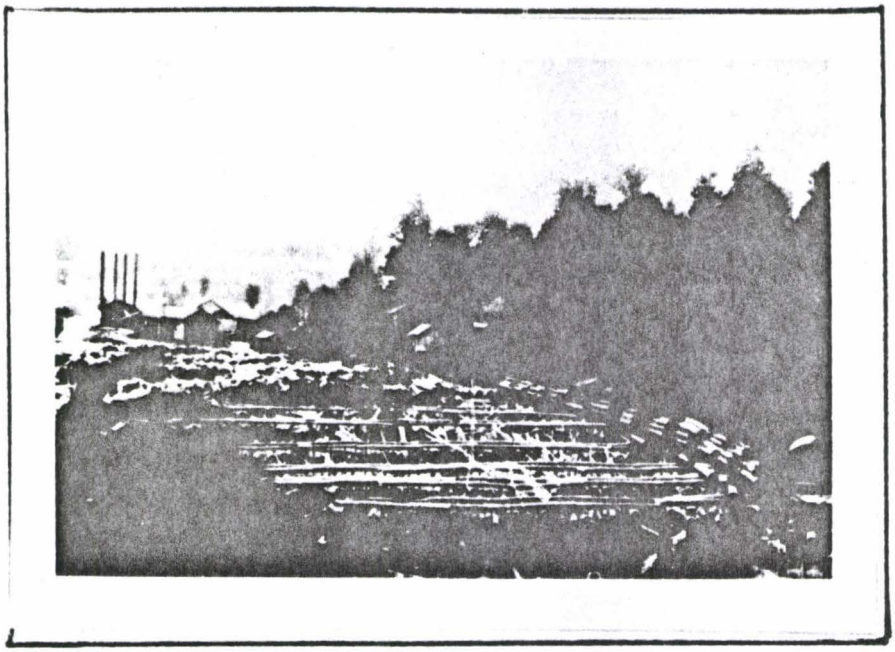


FIGURE 6: Logging train on RR grade north of Loleta

"A locomotive with cars to carry the men and tools to fight the fire was waiting to take them to the woods. Their wives tried to stop them but could not. Mr. Campbell and father insisted on going to supervise the men and see what the fire was doing. The mill was shut down. Every available man was taken to the fire. I still remember seeing the black smoke roll across the hills." (Henry Amsler as quoted by Alice Wessman, 1982)

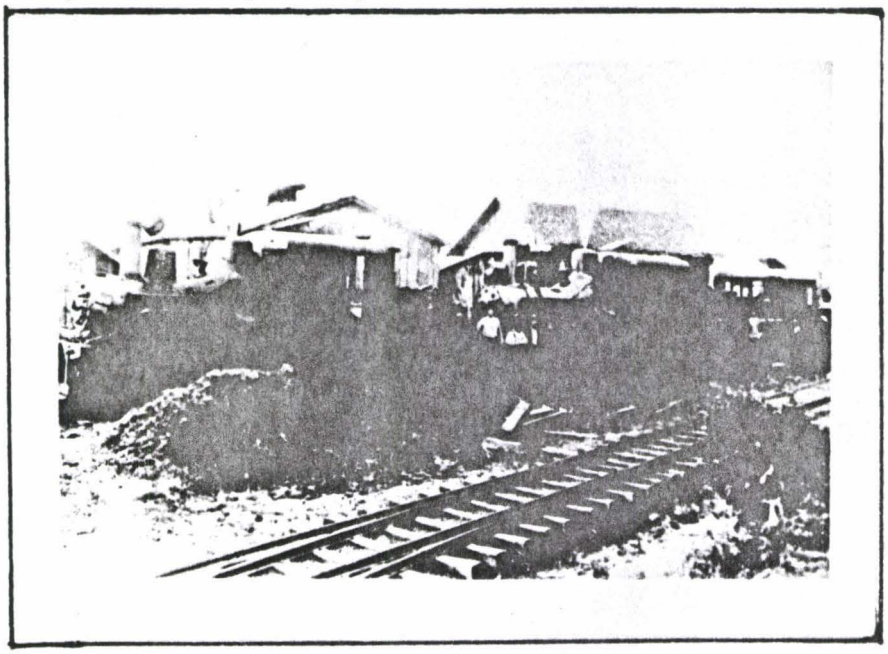


FIGURE 7: Railroad crew

1909: "My father worked at his trade as a sawyer in the mill located at Loleta where I was born. Loleta was a typical lumbering settlement, and just about the last of its kind. The lumber company owned everything, and all the male residents of working age (except the family that owned the company store) earned their living at the sawmill, or in the surrounding forests" (Reuben L. Cain, 1985).

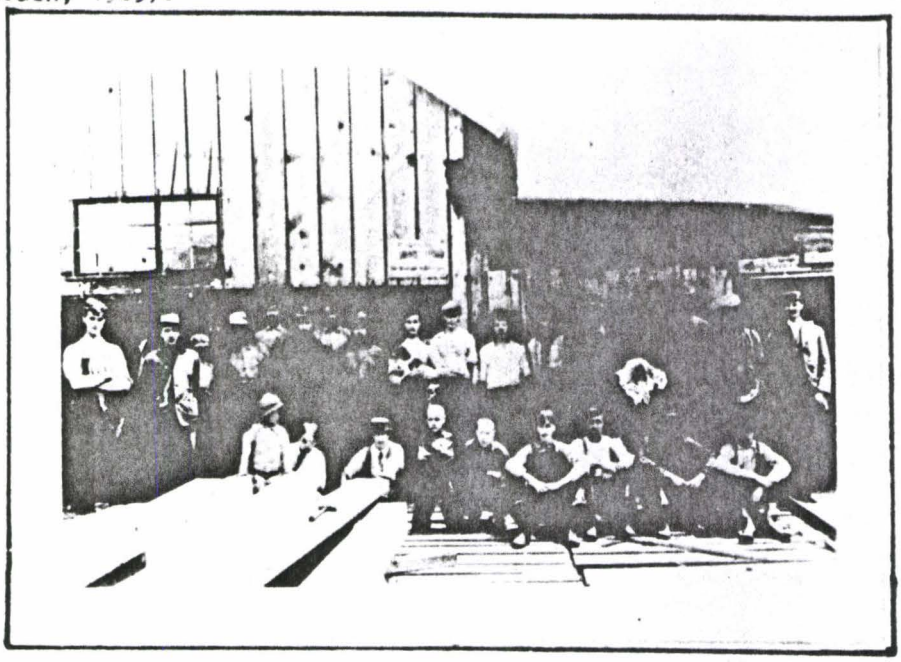


FIGURE 8: Sawmill crew

1910: "The fireman, Dan Harmon, ...spent his free time in the (mill) office, playing checkers with anyone who would play with him; or, failing that, he heckled the girl in the office. Dan was a widower, and his standing joke was to propose daily to this hapless girl, especially if he had an audience" (Mrs. John F. Kuhn, 1975).

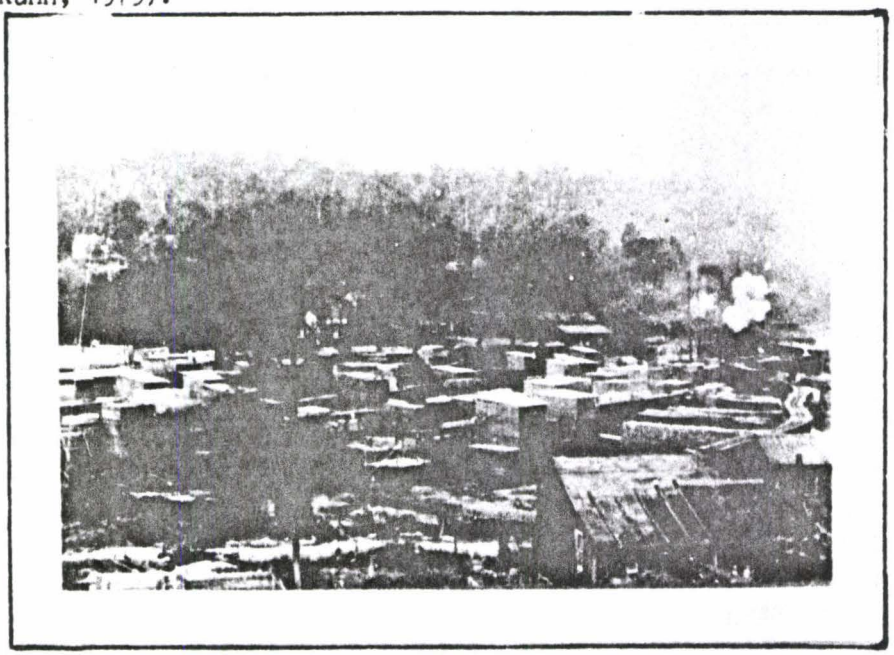


FIGURE 9: Lumber yard and town of Loleta

1913: "When all the trees in our area had been cut down and processed at Loleta, the sawmill and other buildings were dismantled and moved to another part of the forest which had not yet been destroyed. That is how my family found itself transferred from Loleta to Sheffield, where...the destruction began all over again" (Reuben L. Cain, 1985).

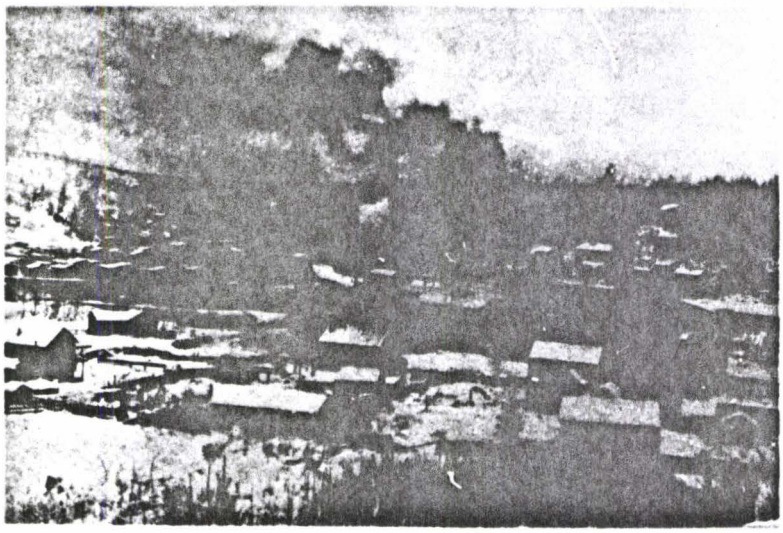


FIGURE 10: Loleta valley winter photo.

Loleta: The CCC Years

For many years after the town of Loleta closed down, its dam and pond continued to be a popular family picnic spot for people from Marienville and other nearby towns. When the Allegheny National Forest was created in 1923, the area where Loleta once stood was acquired by the Federal government along with thousands of acres of surrounding land, most of which was denuded. The Forest Service continued to allow local recreation use at Loleta.

In 1933 the Forest Service reconstructed the dam and pond using Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) labor from one of six CCC camps established on the Allegheny N.F.. A bath house was constructed in 1935. The surrounding area was landscaped and a picnic area with picnic shelters was built. The

distinctive quality of the CCC workmanship is still evident today in the stonework of the dam and the log cabin construction of the bath house.

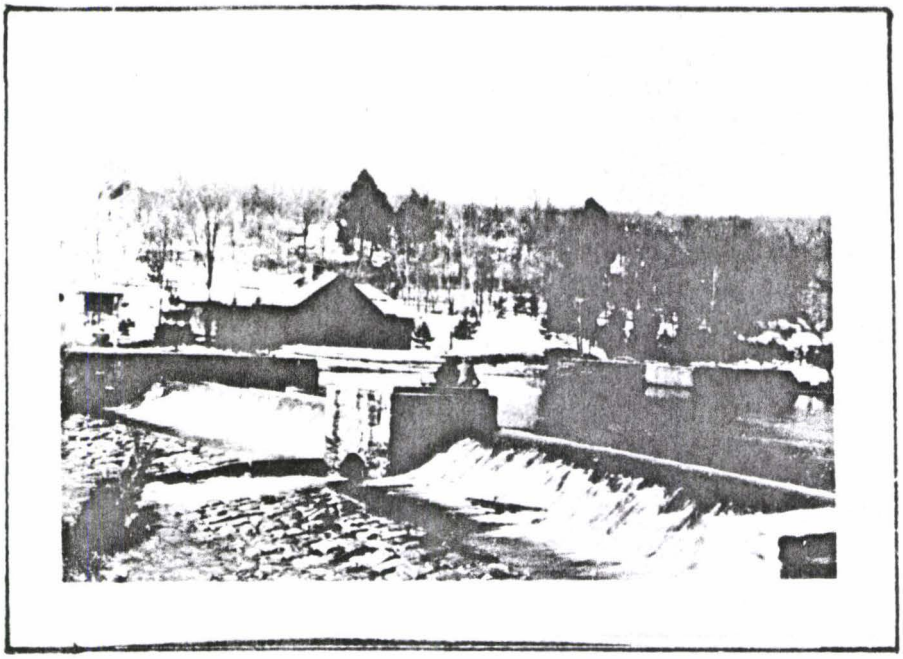


FIGURE 11: Loleta bathhouse 1935

Loleta: The Recreation Area

Today, the Loleta Recreation Area managed by the Forest Service bears little resemblance to the bustling town of 600 inhabitants that once stood here (Figures 12 and 14). In addition to the swimming and picnic areas,

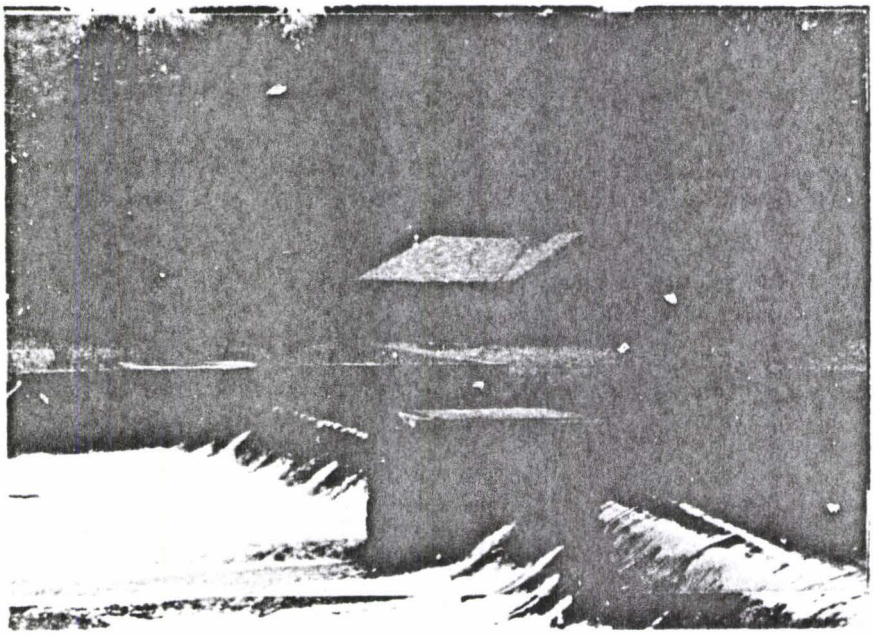


FIGURE 12: Loleta bathhouse 1987

the Forest Service has over the years added two family campgrounds, two group campgrounds, paved roads, and running water. Whereas the land was once shorn of trees, the forest now dominates the landscape once again.

In the 1950s, Loleta was one of most popular recreation sites on the Allegheny National Forest. Its swimming area was a big attraction during the hot summer months. However, once construction of the Allegheny Reservoir was completed in the 1960s, recreation use at Loleta dropped off dramatically. Today, Loleta is a moderately-used recreation site, averaging 6000 recreation visitor-days and 4000 recreation visitors per year. Campground occupancy averages 15 to 20% of full occupancy through the summer. Loleta is well-supported by a devoted group of families that return there each year. Many of them come from Ohio and the Pittsburgh area. They prefer the rustic and primitive qualities of Loleta to the more crowded and highly developed facilities on the reservoir.

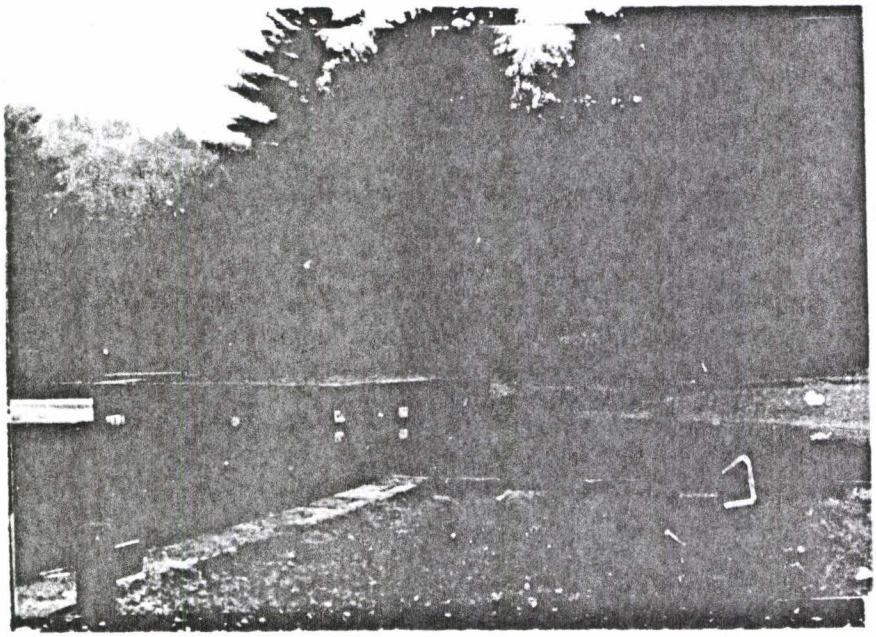
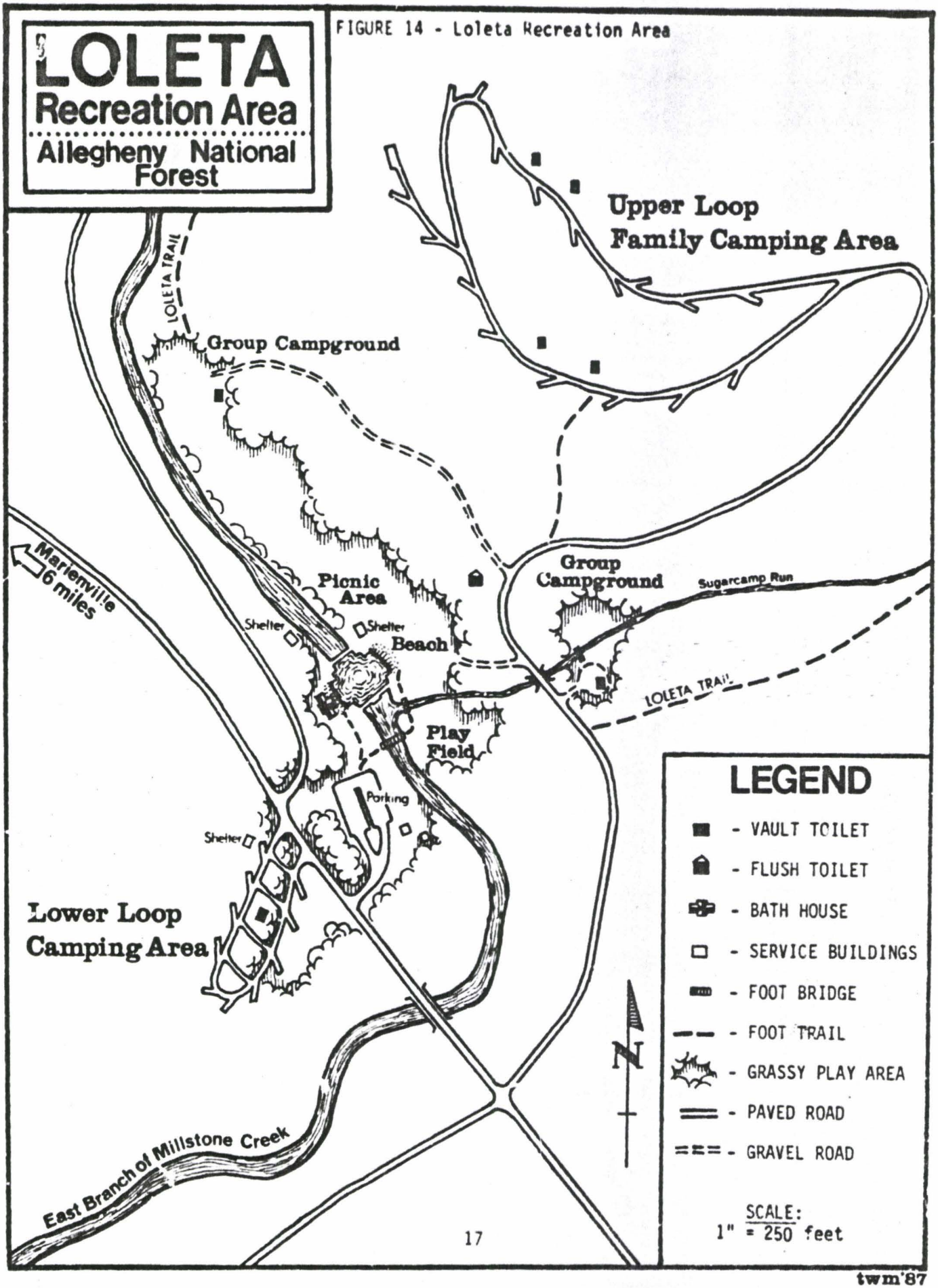


FIGURE 13: Swim area and picnic shelter

FIGURE 14 - Loleta Recreation Area



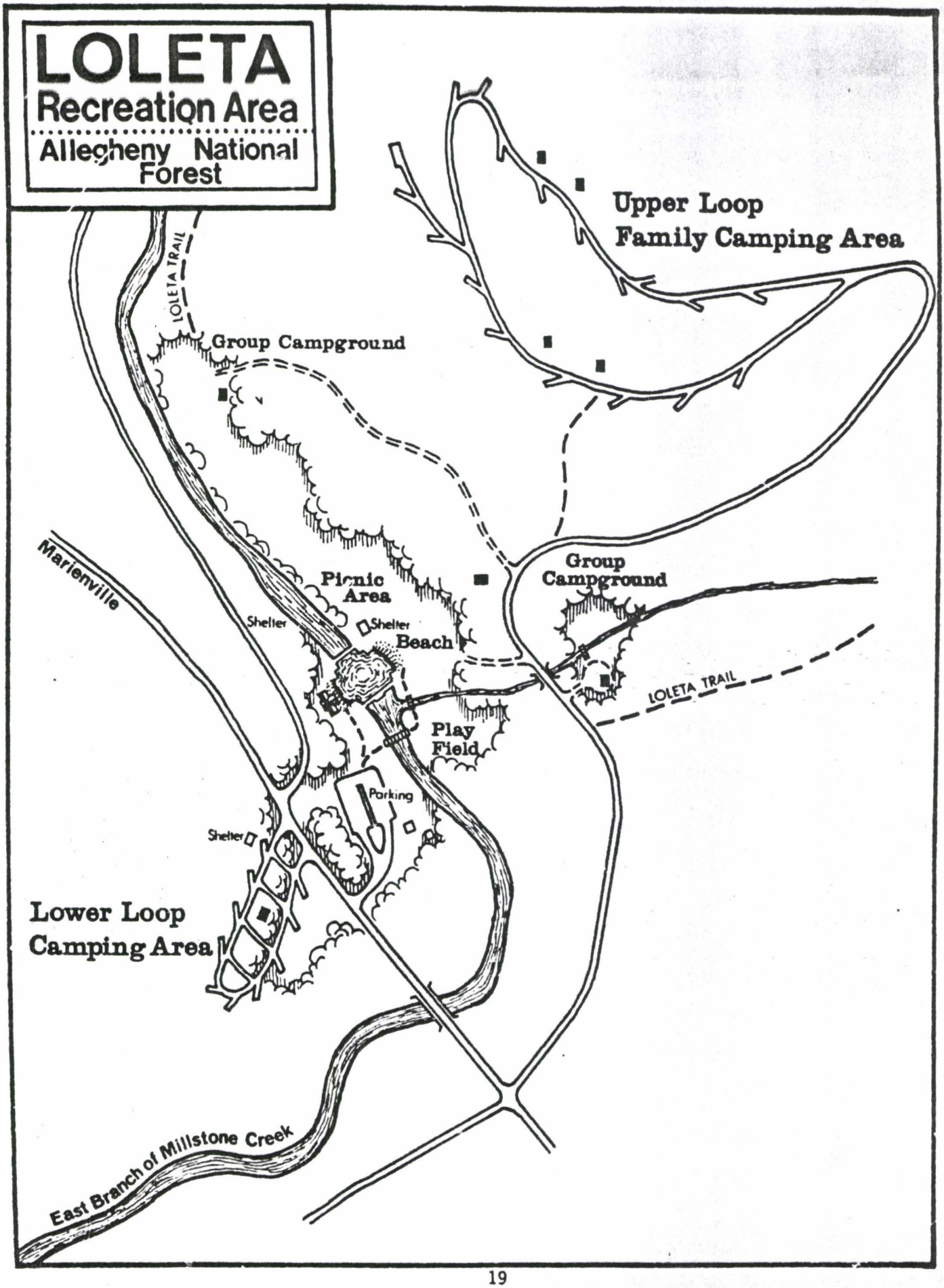
twm'87

In some places within the recreation area, excavation and landscaping work have obliterated the original contours of the land. Retrieval of historical data is no longer possible at these sites. However, throughout most of the area one can still see clues of habitation: broken china, bricks, leveled house sites, pieces of glassware, railroad grades, cinder piles, apple trees, and old tools, to name a few. To the credit of the local visitors, many of whom know Loleta's history, there has been little sign of pothunting or theft of artifacts. People appear to respect the memory of the town.

Through research, interview, and study of photographs, the author has been able to determine the location of many of the landmarks of the town of Loleta. The vantage points from which most of the old photographs were taken have been fixed. It has been possible to superimpose a map of the town over a map of the recreation site (Figure 15).

It should be noted that cultural resource evaluation of Loleta has not yet been accomplished. Timing precludes completing it before submission of this report. Further archeological inventory is needed to fully expose and explain all the sites within the Loleta complex. Archival research and informant interviews will be necessary to gather all available written and oral information on the history of Loleta. Once a cultural resource evaluation is completed, it is likely that the location of landmarks shown in Figure 15 will need to be refined or changed. A survey and additional background research are planned for completion by 1989. These should reveal many more interesting facts about Loleta for interpretive use.

The remainder of this paper examines the interpretive opportunities associated with the Loleta site.


LOLETA
Recreation Area
Allegheny National Forest
Upper Loop
Family Camping Area
LOLETA TRAIL
Group Campground
Marienville
Picnic Area
Shelter
Shelter
Beach
Group Campground
LOLETA TRAIL
Play Field
Parking
Shelter
Lower Loop
Camping Area
East Branch of Millstone Creek

Part 3

NATIONAL FOREST POLICY REVIEW

Why Loleta?

Having read the brief summary of Loleta's history in Part 2, the reader might still ask the question: Why Loleta and not some other site? What (if anything) makes Loleta such an outstanding opportunity? A skeptic could correctly cite that Loleta was just one of hundreds of such logging towns in northwest Pennsylvania at the turn of the century.

It is the author's opinion that three factors combine to make Loleta an excellent candidate for interpretation. First, Loleta was a town of significant **size** for that day. It was larger than most other now-extinct towns of the area. In fact, with a population of over 600 residents, it rivaled nearby Marienville which is today a bustling community and the home of the Marienville Ranger Station. A mere circumstantial decision of the Tionesta Valley Railroad to join all local railroad lines through Sheffield instead of Loleta, a quirk of geography, is the major reason for Loleta's demise.

The second reason that Loleta is a good interpretive candidate is summed up in a statement by archeologist Martin McAllister. He says: "What makes Loleta unique now is that the site of this former town was developed as a **Forest Service recreation area**. This combination of an historical town site and an already existing recreation area makes Loleta an excellent site for cultural resource interpretation". If Loleta were located in some dispersed area, it might be mildly

interesting. However the presence of a managed recreation facility on the site is an opportunity too good to miss. People are already attracted to the area and, as early polls of visitors reveal, interpretation of the site's history would enhance their recreation experience.

The third factor in Loleta's favor is the **data retrieval potential** for the site. The town of Loleta existed until 75 years ago. There is still an abundance of historical data available on the former town. There are deeds, letters, and historical records. There are photographs. Many artifacts of the town of Loleta still remain. Some former residents are still alive and available for informant interviews.

In summary, the three factors of Loleta's size, the presence of today's Loleta Recreation Area, and the data retrieval potential combine to make Loleta an exceptional interpretive opportunity.

Cultural Resource Policy

The question still remains however whether such interpretation as proposed at Loleta is appropriate within the current framework of Federal law and National Forest policy. Is the interpretation of the Loleta (or any other) historic site legal and proper?

A review of legislation and policies will help to focus on the authority under which the Forest Service operates. The first area that should be examined is cultural resource law and policy.

The authors of existing cultural resource legislation were careful to use strongly worded prohibitions. The prohibitions address the need to identify and protect the inventory of cultural and historical sites on public lands. There are several laws from which the Forest Service draws its authority to establish rules and regulations governing historic and prehistoric resources on National Forest lands. These laws include the following (from Chapter 2361.1 of the Forest Service Manual):

- The Antiquities Act of 1906 provides for the protection of, and establishes criminal sanctions for destruction of, antiquities.

- The Historic Sites Act of 1935 and The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 authorize the establishment, preservation, and restoration of properties of national or archeological significance. An amendment to the 1966 Act directs public agencies to withhold from public disclosure the location of National Register sites if such disclosure would "create a risk of destruction or harm" to the sites.

- Executive Order 11593, Protection and Enhancement of Cultural Environment, May 13, 1971, directs the Federal government to provide leadership in preserving and enhancing the historic and cultural environment of the nation. Federal agencies are to administer cultural properties in a "spirit of stewardship and trusteeship for future generations." EO 11593 orders Federal agencies to locate and inventory cultural resources on public lands, ensuring that sites are not inadvertently damaged or destroyed before completion of inventory and evaluation.

- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1974 requires that project activities on public land be planned and executed with measures for the protection of all resources, including antiquities. This Act authorized the expenditure of project funds for survey, recovery, analysis, and publication of historical and archeological data.

- The Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 establishes uniform definitions, standards, and procedures to be followed by all Federal land managers in providing protection for archeological resources located on public lands and Indian lands of the United States. It defines penalties for the sale, purchase, exchange, transport, and receipt of archeological resources illegally removed from Federal lands. The implementing regulation for this Act within the Department of Agriculture is 36 CFR 296.

- Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 219.24 expands upon NEPA and states, among other requirements, that Forest

Planning shall: (6) Identify opportunities for interpretation of cultural resources for the education and enjoyment of the American public.

- Title 36 of CFR 800 specifies the procedures Federal agencies are to follow to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act, particularly regarding the protection of historic and cultural properties. It explains the roles and relationships of the Advisory Council on Historical Preservation and all State and Federal agencies charged with managing cultural resources.

The above laws were not only prohibitive in nature. There is also language in most of these directives that alludes to the need for preservation, enhancement, and interpretation of historic sites. This direction is expanded and more strongly emphasized in Forest Service manual (FSM) direction. Some of these manual references are included below:

- FSM 2361.03 (4) directs the Forest Service to "provide for the use of cultural resources for educational, scientific, recreational, and other public purposes to the extent consistent with management requirements."

- FSM 2361.27 states that "when consistent with other management direction cultural resources should be interpreted for the public benefit."

- FSM 2361.29c directs the agency to "encourage onsite public use and enjoyment of cultural properties where possible without damage to values. Where practicable, enhance recreation values through interpretation, restoration, and other measures."

- The Land and Resource Management Plan for the Allegheny NF addresses the interpretation of cultural resources in its Standards and Guidelines. "Interpretation may occur during the evaluation or excavation of major sites, and the excavation may be featured as well as the findings of the evaluation or excavation."

The reader should note that the above laws and directives speak of opportunities as well as legal requirements. To date, most of the emphasis in cultural resource management has by necessity been on identification and inventory of the resource. This is the logical first step in laying the foundation for sound resource management. But many feel

that the time is right to move beyond inventory to capture public opportunities.

Forest Service professionals are now urging that the agency move beyond the inventory stage with its cultural resource program and integrate it into the mainstream of American recreational activity. Roy Feuchter (1986) predicts that the Forest Service will soon make a major move from the identification of cultural and historical sites to the interpretation of them.

Approximately 49% of tourists interviewed nationwide in 1985 want to visit historic sites (Peters, 1987). This is more than twice the number interested in hunting, fishing, or hiking in the same survey! The President's Commission on American's Outdoors seemingly recognized this trend by addressing the need to enhance and conserve the cultural resources of the nation in their recently published list of recommendations.

Playing the revolutionary is easier said than done, says Roger von Oech (1983). He states that one of the most difficult problems in any organization is getting its people to challenge the rules. Forest Service archeologist Russell Kaldenberg (1986) summarizes that "philosophies will have to change in order for the program to move beyond inventory. The general public likes their past and wants to know more about it. The Market Opinion Survey presented in 1986 to the President's Outdoor Recreation Commission found that the public wants information on historic and cultural sites that are nearby or on the way to their primary recreation area to increase their selection of recreation opportunities."

Interpretive Program Policy

Public involvement, interpretive services, and marketing have become major emphasis areas in the Forest Service in recent years. However, until recently, the Forest Service was able to get away with being a "low-profile" organization. Before the famous Monongahela clearcutting controversy, the agency was not very adept at dealing with the public. Interpretation was considered the job of "that other agency". Forest Service managers felt that interpretation was more the business of the Park Service, and that people do not or ought not expect it of the Forest Service. But a well-informed public has placed demands on all Federal agencies to be more responsive and more open. As a result, the Forest Service has recently developed programs, policy, and handbooks to encourage a more public-service-minded management style.

Recent manual direction in the Forest Service suggests that there is a great potential to grow in the area of Interpretive Services. The Interpretive Service objectives identified in Forest Service Manual 1660 are "to interpret the natural and social history of the area as part of the visitor's recreation experience." A further objective is "to provide learning experiences for visitors, schools, and other organizations."

Handbooks have been developed to aid the Forest Service manager in the areas of Interpretive Services, Public Involvement, and Marketing. The Interpretive Services Handbook (FSH 1609.22) contains some very useful ideas on identifying the demands of the Forest visitor and planning interpretive facilities and programs. A handbook titled "A Guide to Effective Interpretation" reveals some interesting concepts that the Forest

Service has learned from marketing research. The use of interpretive associations to aid in providing high quality interpretive service to the public is rapidly increasing. All of this supports the conclusion that thoughtful interpretation of resource management is indeed consistent with the mission of the Forest Service.

Recreation Management Policy

Current Forest Service direction clearly states that interpretation is appropriate and desireable as part of a well-rounded recreation program. Two of the five major objectives of the Forest Service national recreation management policy directly address the interpretation of cultural resources (from FSM 2302):

> 2. To protect the long-term public interest by maintaining and enhancing open space options, public accessibility, and cultural, wilderness, visual, and natural resource values.
>
> 5. To provide outdoor recreation opportunities and activities that: ....(d) instill appreciation of the nation's history, cultural resources, and traditional values.

The objectives of recreation site interpretation as stated in FSM 2390 are "to increase visitor understanding of natural and cultural history principles and their relation to land management techniques." The interpretation of cultural resources is clearly encouraged.

The Forest Service Manual gives guidelines for the administration of recreation sites. As shown in Table 1, varying levels of interpretation are appropriate at recreation developments of different scales and in different Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classes.

Table 1: RECREATION SITE INTERPRETATION GUIDELINES by ROS CLASS

ROS Class	Development Scale	Interpretation Guideline
Primitive	1	Minimum controls are suitable.
Semi-primitive Motorized and Non-motorized	2	Interpretive services are informal and almost subliminal.
Roaded Natural	3	Interpretive services are informal but generally direct.
Rural	4	Interpretive services are often formal or structured.
Urban	5	Formal interpretive services are usually available.

SOURCE: Forest Service Manual 2330.3, Amendment 95, dated 9/85

The interpretation guidelines in Table 1 follow a gradation from almost no interpretation to very formal interpretation facilities. Loleta is a Development Scale 4 recreation area located in a Roaded Natural ROS class. The guidelines suggest informal but direct facilities would be appropriate at Loleta, but some formal interpretation would also be acceptable.

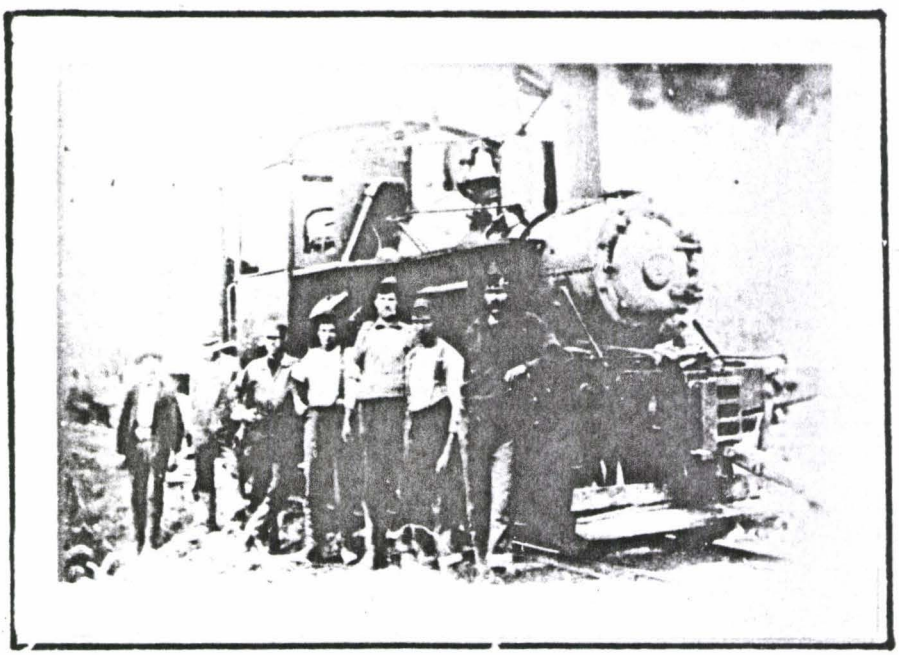
Policy Summary: Does FS Policy Encourage the Interpretation of Historic Sites?

In some ways, cultural resource management within the Forest Service is a two-edged sword. Enabling legislation and Forest policy speak of the need for both **protection** and **promotion** of historic resources. To many managers, these are diametrically opposing objectives. The question is asked: "How can we expect to protect these sensitive sites from damage and yet promote their interpretation and use?" This kind of question may betray a misconception within the Forest Service that public use is necessarily synonymous with damage or vandalism.

The National Park Service has established an impressive record interpreting significant sites. Many of these sites could also have been viewed as "too sensitive" to publicize. But the paradox that the NPS discovered is that, rather than accelerating the destruction of sites, interpretation generates interest and concern for the preservation of the site. It instills in the visitor a greater appreciation for the value of that which is interpreted. (Kerr and Littlefield, 1974)

It should be clear from the preceding policy review that, yes, the interpretation of historic sites is fully consistent with the law and Forest Service direction. The policies as written were careful to emphasize the need for "protection" and perhaps the Forest Service has over-reacted to this. But the eventual destination of the Forest Service should be a well-balanced cultural resource program with emphasis on the word RESOURCE. Our cultural resources deserve to be managed as are the other multiple uses: with wisdom, with sensitivity, and with imagination.

FIGURE 16: Loleta railroad crew.



Part 4

EXAMINATION OF ALTERNATIVES

Interpretive Objectives

The author has attempted to establish in the preceding chapter that interpretation is a valid recreation management tool for the Forest Service. The next step is to determine what, if any, interpretive options are appropriate at Loleta Recreation Area.

Before developing a list of alternatives, it is important to think first about interpretive objectives. Muriel E. More (1983) suggests that these objectives be established early in the interpretive planning process. She proposes that Forest Service interpreters identify the proper interpretive technique so that visitors will "develop a stronger desire to maintain, protect, preserve, or expand cultural, historic, and natural resources for the benefit of future generations." This is best done by examining the following questions:

1. What is the message? What do we want to say? What kind of reaction do we wish to evoke in the viewer?

   LOLETA'S MESSAGE: Interpretive facilities should e ·cate visitors on the history of the site and the region; develop an appreciation for the value of local history; and impress visitors with the need to help preserve the site for future visitors.

   The story of Loleta should be told in a way that accomplishes three main objectives: 1) Draw a connection between the Loleta story and the historical roots of visitors, most of whom are from the northwest Pennsylvania area and share a common historical tradition. 2) Use the story to make visitors to Loleta understand that what happened at Loleta, including the associated

land abuse of that era, will not happen again. 3) Give visitors an appreciation of the dynamic, restorative abilities of the land and forest resource, by contrasting the formerly denuded appearance of Loleta with today's forested appearance.

2. What is the audience? Who do I want to get the message to? What are the characteristics of the expected visitor to the Loleta site? What kind of interpretation would they find most pleasing and informative?

LOLETA'S AUDIENCE: Due to time constraints, only very limited visitor surveying was possible. More thorough surveying will be accomplished during the 1987 camping season. However, as noted in Appendix B, this limited survey plus discussions with several other people verify an interest in the site history and a desire to know more. Most of Loleta's visitors are families from the urban areas of northwest Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio. They seek the esthetic beauty and rustic appeal of Loleta, and enjoy hiking and sightseeing. Visually subtle and informative displays should be well-received by this group.

3. What is the medium? How shall we package the information? What method of interpretation would be appropriate at the Loleta site? What types of interpretive facilities are appropriate?

LOLETA'S MEDIUM: A wide variety of interpretive methods are available. The remainder of this chapter is dedicated to discussion of various "media" and selection of the most appropriate ones for Loleta.

Development of Alternatives

Forest Manual guidelines for Development Scale 4 facilities dictate that a major interpretive facility such as a museum or VIS center would not be appropriate at Loleta. Also, the low-to-moderate level of use at Loleta does not justify a major interpretive development. Therefore, a visitor center is not considered here.

However, several traditional interpretive techniques may be considered for use at Loleta. One or more of the following facilities could be installed to produce an informative and interesting product at a reasonable cost.

1. Install a centrally located interpretive display sign near the entrance to the Loleta Recreation Area. This sign would present a brief history of Loleta accompanied by photographs of the town and maps showing the locations of past town building and features relative to current facilities. The sign could also serve as a first stop for those wishing to explore or visit other interpretive facilities at Loleta.

2. Publish an interpretive pamphlet on Loleta. This would be available at the main interpretive display sign, at the Ranger Station, and at other Allegheny NF offices. It would contain a more detailed history of Loleta than the sign, and might also serve as a guide to the town site. In addition, the pamphlet should also contain information on Forest Service cultural resource policies, including a message concerning the protected status of cultural resources on National Forest lands.

3. Provide static facilities for on-site interpretation of key locations in the Loleta complex through one of the following methods:

    a. A self-guided trail with numbered stops keyed to an interpretive booklet or pamphlet which describes the significant features at each stop.

b. An historical interpretive trail with descriptive plaques on pedestals at each significant stop along the trail. These plaques might contain old photographs taken from the same location 80 years ago, drawings of buildings, and/or narrative descriptions.

c. Randomly located pedestals and plaques throughout the area at the former location of significant features of the town of Loleta. These plaques might contain old photographs, maps, drawings, and/or narrative descriptions.

4. Install an interpretive display on Loleta at the Marienville Ranger Station. Such a display would serve to direct visitor attention to Loleta and provide at least some information to those who could not actually visit the town site. The security of the office location would also allow for display of artifacts and other sensitive materials that could not be displayed at the site.

5. Construct a low-scale amphitheatre or other facility for giving interpretative programs on Loleta's history as well as other interpretive subjects. Develop a slide-tape program, videotape, or other multi-media program to use at the amphitheatre to interpret Loleta's story. Local historical societies or other private interests might be willing to volunteer to conduct periodic historical programs.

6. Do nothing more than is currently being done. This is an alternative course of action if: 1) it is felt that Loleta is not a worthwhile candidate for cultural resource interpretation, or 2) interpretation is likely to result in theft, damage, or destruction of sites and artifacts.

Comparison of Alternatives

All six alternative plans for interpretation of Loleta are viable. With the exception of the No-Action alternative, the alternatives are also mutually exclusive. In other words, alternatives 1 through 5 could each be implemented, or they could all be implemented, or various combinations of the five could be used.

Which alternative(s) should be implemented?

To begin with, it has already been established through public comment and consultation with archeologists that Loleta is indeed a good candidate for interpretation. The presence of a recreation area on the very same location as an historic site is an opportunity too good to miss.

It is also unlikely that disclosure would "create a risk of destruction or harm" to the Loleta site. No structures remain from the former town. Significant and/or valuable artifacts are rare. In such a situation, theft or vandalism is not likely to occur. **Therefore, there appears to be little justification for selecting the No-Action Alternative (#6).**

To examine the remaining interpretive options, one must ask the following questions: 1) Which interpretive method would be most properly matched with the local environment, the ROS class, and the development scale of Loleta Recreation Area? 2) Which method would be the preference of the visitors to Loleta? 3) Which method conveys the story of Loleta to the visitor most effectively? 4) Which method conveys the story of Loleta most cost-efficiently, or gives the most "bang for the buck"?

Using these management concerns as "selection criteria", the alternatives can be evaluated and ranked. The evaluation of alternatives 1 through 5 is accomplished through the use of the matrix shown in Table 2. Entries of YES or NO are used to judge the success of each alternative in meeting each management concern. To aid in scoring the alternatives, a point score is also assigned for each alternative and management concern. Scores ranging from 1 (unsatisfactory) through 3 (acceptable) to 5 (excellent) are assigned. The narratives within the matrix describe the strengths and weaknesses of each respective alternative. The criteria of "reasonable and acceptable cost" assumes project costs similar to those found in Appendix C.

An "Evaluation Matrix Summary" at the bottom of the table reveals in a glance how the seven alternative proposals compared to each other. The matrix provides a basis for selection of interpretive methods that will be discussed in Part 5 - Loleta Interpretive Management Plan.

TABLE 2: ALTERNATIVE EVALUATION MATRIX

	INTERPRETIVE ALTERNATIVES		
	Alternative 1	**Alternative 2**	**Alternative 3a**
MANAGEMENT CONCERNS	**Interpretive display at Recreation Area entrance**	**Publish an Interpretive Pamphlet on Loleta**	**On-Site Interpretation: Self-guided Trail with Numbered Stops**
Is this interpretive method appropriate for the environment, ROS class, & development scale of Loleta?	YES - Interpretive services are informal but direct, which is appropriate for level 4 facility in Roaded Natural ROS class. POINTS = 5	YES - Interpretive services are informal but direct, which is appropriate for level 4 facility in Roaded Natural ROS Class. POINTS = 5	YES - Interpretive services are informal but direct, which is appropriate for level 4 facility in Roaded Natural ROS class. POINTS = 5
Would this method of interpretation be well-received by and pleasing to Loleta's visitors?	YES - Recreation Area entrance is a good place to install this structure, which should capture the attention and interest of visitors. POINTS = 5	YES - Provides visitors with written educational material, and also serves as a momento or "souvenir" of their visit to the site. POINTS = 4	NO - Marginally acceptable. Requires the visitor to carry and use a pamphlet that describes the numbered stops. Visitors might find this cumbersome & confusing. FS must maintain a good supply of pamphlets. POINTS = 1
Does this method convey the Loleta story and the cultural resource message effectively to the visitor?	YES - The centralized display can contain maps, photos, & detailed explanations of the Loleta site. It could also serve as the start point for an interpretive trail. POINTS = 4	YES - An effective pamphlet would convey much of the Loleta story to the visitor, and generate interest in knowing more. POINTS = 3	YES - The trail leads visitors through the Loleta site in a prearranged way, conveying a clear picture of the area history. Visitors must have obtained the descriptive pamphlet to understand numbers. POINTS = 4
Does this method of interpretation have a reasonable and acceptable cost? (Indices shown here are merely used for comparison. They are NOT benefit:cost ratios)	YES Estimated cost = $8000 Estimated # of visitor contacts = 3000/year Cost-to-contact index = 2.70 POINTS = 4	YES Estimated cost = $3000 Estimated # of visitor contacts = 4000/year Cost-to-contact index = 0.75 POINTS = 5	YES Estimated cost = $11000 Estimated # of visitor contacts = 2000/year Cost-to-contact index = 5.50 POINTS = 3

EVALUATION MATRIX SUMMARY	ALTERNATIVE 1	ALTERNATIVE 2	ALTERNATIVE 3
YES = Meets criteria NO = Fails to meet criteria	YES = 4 NO = 0 TOTAL POINTS = 18	YES = 4 NO = 0 TOTAL POINTS = 17	YES = 3 NO = 1 TOTAL POINTS = 13

TABLE 2: ALTERNATIVE EVALUATION MATRIX

INTERPRETIVE ALTERNATIVES			
Alternative 3b **On-Site Interpretation** **Self-guided Trail with Interpretive Plaques**	**Alternative 3c** **On-Site Interpretation** **No Trail; Randomly Located Plaques**	**Alternative 4** **Major Interpretive Display at Ranger Station:**	**Alternative 5** **Amphitheatre for Giving Interpretive Programs**
YES - This is a more formal and structured interpretive service, but entirely appropriate for level 4 development in Roaded Natural ROS class. POINTS = 5	YES - Interpretive services are informal but direct, which is appropriate for level 4 facility in Roaded Natural ROS class. POINTS = 5	YES - The Ranger Station provides an excellent environment for a formal display and allows for exhibiting artifacts in a secure location. POINTS = 5	NO - Amphitheatres are a more formal and highly developed interpretive service typical of level 5 facilities and Urban ROS class. POINTS = 2
YES - Attractively designed plaques and a well-planned trail would be "user friendly": esthetically pleasing, informative, and allow for use of photos or other visual aids. POINTS = 5	YES - Visitors might feel challenged and enjoy exploring the site for random markers. However, some might become discouraged and prefer a trail to avoid becoming lost or disoriented. POINTS = 3	YES - A formal historical display at the heavily-visited Ranger Station should generate interest and an appreciation for local history. POINTS = 3	YES - Visitors have responded very favorably to formal programs at the site in the past. POINTS = 4
YES - A well-planned trail would lead the visitor through the Loleta site in a prearranged way, conveying a clear picture of the area's history. POINTS = 5	NO - Visitors must search for random stations, which may distract or discourage them and fail to convey the Loleta story in an orderly & effective way. POINTS = 2	YES - A display and well-informed receptionist at the Ranger Station offers an outstanding opportunity to educate and answer questions from the visitor. POINTS = 5	YES - Provides the best opportunity for personal contact with the visitor right at the town site. Also provides a good opportunity of interpretive group hikes. POINTS = 5
YES Estimated cost = $16000 Estimated # of visitor contacts = 2000/year Cost-to-contact index = 8.00 POINTS = 3	YES Estimated cost = $9000 Estimated # of visitor contacts = 1500/year Cost-to-contact index = 6.00 POINTS = 3	YES Estimated cost = $9000 Estimated # of visitor contacts = 6000/year Cost-to-contact index = 1.50 POINTS = 4	NO Estimated cost = $12000 plus $3000/year. Estimated # of visitor contacts = 750/year. Cost-to-contact index = > 16.00 POINTS = 1

ALTERNATIVE 3b	ALTERNATIVE 3c	ALTERNATIVE 4	ALTERNATIVE 5
YES = 4 NO = 0 TOTAL POINTS = 18	YES = 2 NO = 2 TOTAL POINTS = 13	YES = 4 NO = 0 TOTAL POINTS = 17	YES = 2 NO = 2 TOTAL POINTS = 12

LOLETA INTERPRETIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Selection of Interpretive Methods

Loleta is a modest recreation facility that does not command a large budget. It also does not compete well for capital investment projects. Consequently, planning for interpretive facilities at Loleta should be done realistically. If interpretation is attempted at Loleta, it is advisable to install a small number of high quality interpretive facilities rather than a large number of facilities of marginal quality. If asked to choose, the Forest Service should emphasize limited interpretation done well rather than extensive interpretation done poorly.

This is the reason for the evaluation done in the preceding chapter. It has been used to identify a suggested list of interpretive projects in order of priority. The priorities are suggested by the relative rankings of the seven alternatives in the "Evaluation Matrix Summary" at the bottom of Table 2. The alternatives with higher point scores and more "YES" answers rank higher than those with fewer points and "YES" responses.

Based upon the analysis, the following interpretive projects are proposed for Loleta. Dependent on funding, they should be considered for implementation in more or less the order shown.

1) The main display at the Loleta site entrance.

2) The interpretive pamphlet.

3) A series of signs or an interpretive trail to provide on-site interpretation at Loleta's most important features.

4) A fairly elaborate display at the Marienville Ranger Station.

Alternative 5 proposing construction of an amphitheatre was eliminated for the present since the current number of visitors to Loleta does not seem to justify the cost. However, it is possible that the interpretation of Loleta might itself generate a higher interest in the site, and eventually warrant such a facility. Once interpretive facilities are installed, use and public interest should be monitored. If appropriate, the amphitheatre idea might be worth reconsidering at a later time.

It should be stressed that, prior to undertaking the interpretation of Loleta, there are several preliminary steps that must first be taken. As mentioned previously, a cultural resource survey and historical background research have not yet been completed for the Loleta site. Even though Loleta has been described as an "excellent site for cultural resource interpretation" by one Forest Service archeologist, this statement was not based upon a detailed Cultural Resource evaluation. Legal guidelines still require that the following be accomplished before the final decision can be made:

1. Perform a cultural resource survey to locate all the remaining sites or artifacts at Loleta.

2. Perform evaluations on those sites and artifacts that are found. This will provide more detailed information on which to base a decision and, if appropriate, will also provide good information for use in interpretation.

3. (If appropriate) Submit the Loleta Interpretive Management Plan as a capital investment project to provide full funding for display design and construction.

The remainder of this paper is devoted to suggesting the manner in which these facilities should be installed and managed.

Entrance Display

If nothing else were able to be done, at a minimum the installation of an interpretive display at the entrance parking area should be accomplished. The sign should be designed as the initial stop for those wishing to explore the town site further. It would also provide basic information on Loleta to visitors who might not be interested in the other interpretive components.

This facility has the benefit of providing the largest amount of visitor exposure for the lowest cost. It should be in a location that provides high visibility. Since most visitors to Loleta park at the swimming site parking area sometime during their visit, this is the logical place to install the display. There already exists a bulletin board in this area that is currently under-utilized. One full 4'x 8' side of the bulletin board would be ideally suited. A single large piece of plexiglass, Lexan, or other appropriate material should be installed for protection over a pictorial narrative display containing the following:

- A narrative history of Loleta supplemented by photographs, in a format similar to that used in Part 2 of this report.
- A large and colorful map of the site depicting the relative locations of current recreation facilities and significant features of the town of Loleta (such as roads, railroad tracks, and town buildings).

- A large reproduction of one of the old panoramic photographs of the valley taken when Loleta was a large bustling community. Narrative descriptions could be placed at the margin of the photo explaining "then-and-now" types of information (i.e.: "BROOM HANDLE MILL - located in the approximate location of the bathhouse building.")

- Perhaps a short mini-lesson educating the visitor on some commonly found clues to former settlement, such as apple trees and railroad grades.

- Lighting of the bulletin would be helpful in attracting attention to the display and making information easier to read. This could be added later.

- If an interpretive trail is constructed, this too should be depicted on a map at the display, which could also serve as the start point for such a trail.

Graphics materials for the display should be professionally prepared, perhaps by contracting the layout and design. The use of a color engraved plastic display might be considered for this display as it would add color and give durability. Through contacts with local historical societies and news release appeals, the District should attempt to find as many more old Loleta photographs and letters as possible. A completed cultural resource evaluation for the Loleta area would also be instrumental in contributing factual information toward the display.

Interpretive Pamphlet

A good professionally designed pamphlet on Loleta should accomplish the following objectives:

1. Attract the attention of National Forest visitors.
2. Stimulate an interest in visiting the Loleta site.
3. Give out some detailed information on Loleta beyond that which is provided in the entrance display.
4. Be relatively brief.

5. Be written in a clear and understandable manner for the public, avoiding jargon and technical data.

6. Stand by itself. The pamphlet should make sense to the reader independent of other interpretive tools. The visitor should not have to visit the site to understand the brochure.

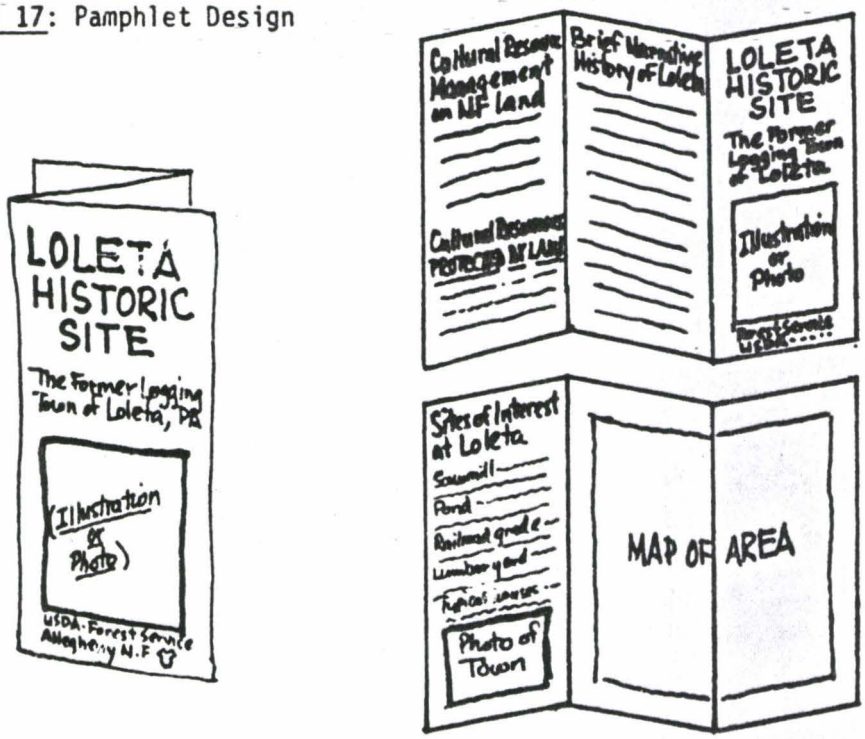
7. Include a site map and/or photos that might be helpful to those wishing to explore the site further. The map should include the locations of former town structures as well as current roads, buildings, and (if applicable) the interpretive trail.

8. Contain a message concerning the protected status of cultural resources on National Forest land.

A pamphlet designed and distributed free by the Forest Service needn't be overly long or bulky. Perhaps it could consist of one piece of pamphlet paper folded into three sections or "leaves", as shown in Figure 17.

On the other hand, if public interest justifies, it might be enlarged into (or supplemented by) a more detailed pamphlet prepared and sold by the Interpretive Association in cooperation with local historical societies.

FIGURE 17: Pamphlet Design



Interpretive Trail

Assuming that the implementation of this interpretive plan occurs in a phased manner, the on-site interpretation could conceivably occur in at least three ways. The exact manner in which facilities are installed would be dependent mainly on the availablility of funds for the project.

First, if the project is not separately funded and has to be financed a little at a time with project funds, perhaps the trail could be constructed in one of the following sequences:

SEQUENCE 1	SEQUENCE 2
1. Construct trail. 2. Install numbered stops. 3. Design a self-guided trail pamphlet keyed to the stop numbers for temporary use. 4. Gradually replace numbered stops with interpretive plaques, & eliminate self-guided pamphlet.	1. Design and install the interpretive plaques at pre-determined positions throughout the site. 2. Construct trail to tie into the plaques as sequential stops.

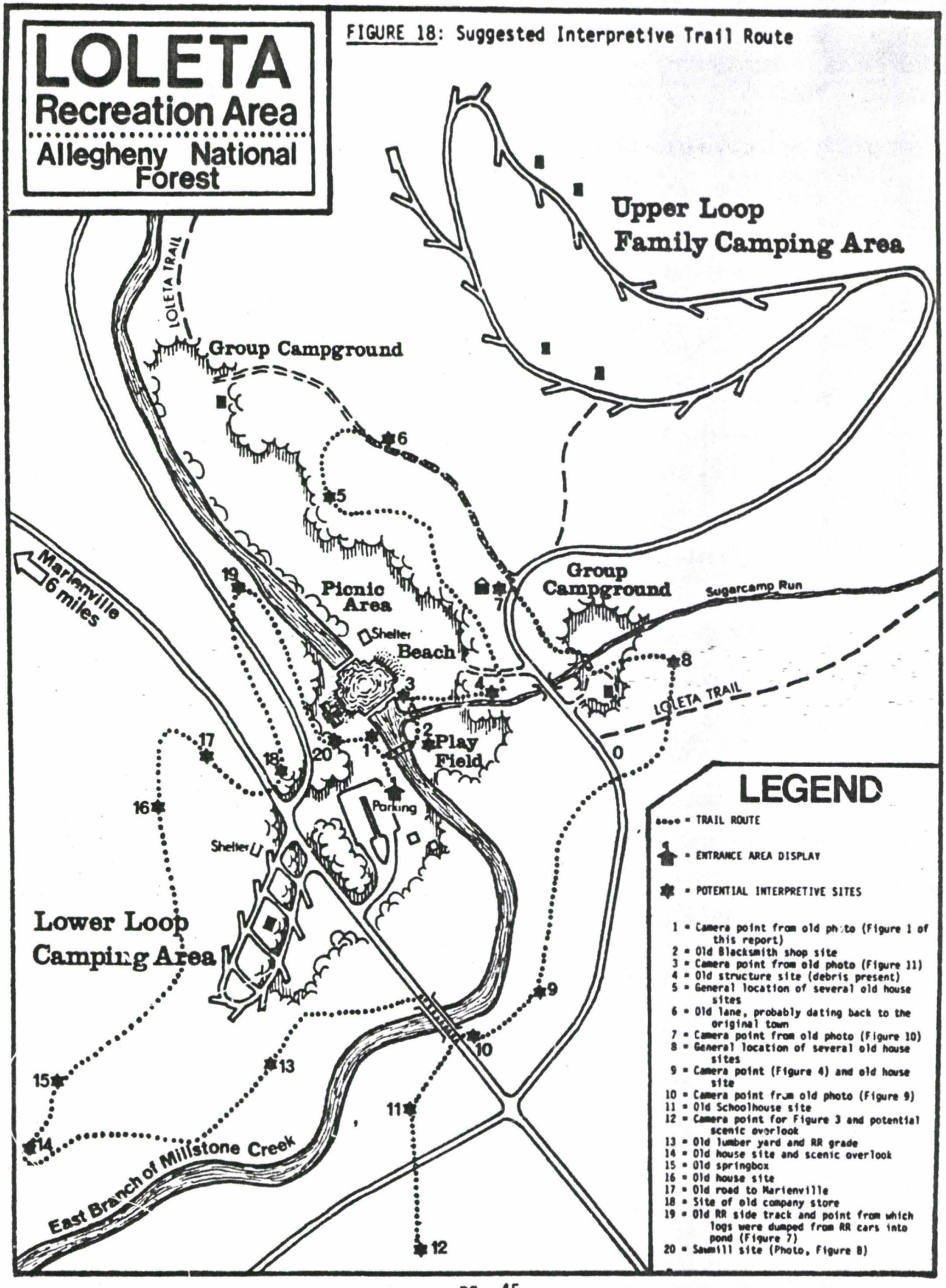
Of course, a third option exists that the project might be fully funded for construction all at one time. The above sequences would then be eliminated and the Forest Service would simply construct the trail with interpretive plaques mounted on pedestals to describe each stop. The point is that, regardless of how it is accomplished, the plaque-and-pedestal interpretive trail is the desired end result (Alternative 3b).

Based on the present knowledge of where the significant identifiable sites are within the Loleta complex, a trail route can be proposed (Figure 18). This route is designed to guide the visitor through the area in an orderly manner, providing on-site interpretation of the various stops through the

use of descriptive plaques. A loop trail is proposed, beginning and ending near the interpretive display board at the site entrance. Adjustments in the exact route would be appropriate if further research reveals other features of interest within the complex.

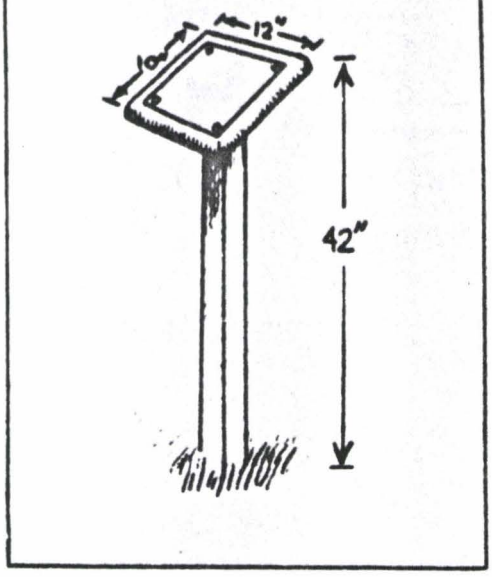
Trail standard. The interpretive trail should be constructed with a treadway that is reasonably safe and enjoyable for walking with casual footwear. The treadway should be relatively smooth, level, firm, and of sufficient width (24-36 inches) to provide a pleasant hike that contributes to the total interpretive experience. The cleared trail corridor should be at least 4-6 feet wide and 10 feet high. The trail will be constructed for family and senior citizen use. Steep pitches are to be avoided. The trail should not be located right on old roads or railroad grades for long distances, but merely long enough to allow for their interpretation.

Descriptive plaques will be used at interpretive stops along the trail. These plaques will consist of narratives, photos, and/or illustrations etched onto metal plates, in a manner similar to the Duratone metal micro-imaging described in Appendix D. Such a process can be used to produce highly detailed images in metal, which provides durability. Also contained in Appendix E are some sample narrative-and-photo plates for Loleta that might be used at some of the trail stops. Completion of all the plaques should await the cultural resource evaluation and report, as this will probably reveal much more detailed information than is currently available to fully interpret the site.


LOLETA
Recreation Area
Allegheny National Forest
FIGURE 18: Suggested Interpretive Trail Route
Upper Loop
Family Camping Area
LOLETA TRAIL
Group Campground
Marienville
6 miles
Picnic
Area
Shelter
Beach
Group
Campground
Sugarcamp Run
LOLETA TRAIL
Play
Field
Parking
Shelter
Lower Loop
Camping Area
East Branch of Millstone Creek
LEGEND
TRAIL ROUTE
ENTRANCE AREA DISPLAY
POTENTIAL INTERPRETIVE SITES
1 = Camera point from old photo (Figure 1 of this report)
2 = Old Blacksmith shop site
3 = Camera point from old photo (Figure 11)
4 = Old structure site (debris present)
5 = General location of several old house sites
6 = Old lane, probably dating back to the original town
7 = Camera point from old photo (Figure 10)
8 = General location of several old house sites
9 = Camera point (Figure 4) and old house site
10 = Camera point from old photo (Figure 9)
11 = Old Schoolhouse site
12 = Camera point for Figure 3 and potential scenic overlook
13 = Old lumber yard and RR grade
14 = Old house site and scenic overlook
15 = Old springbox
16 = Old house site
17 = Old road to Marienville
18 = Site of old company store
19 = Old RR side track and point from which logs were dumped from RR cars into pond (Figure 7)
20 = Sawmill site (Photo, Figure 8)

A very simple design would suffice for the pedestals. These might consist simply of a 10x12" angled hardwood backboard mounted on a 4x4" hardwood post, as shown to the right in Figure 19.

FIGURE 19: Pedestal Design



Ranger Station Display

The Marienville Ranger Station is located along State Route 66 which serves as the "gateway" into the Allegheny National Forest for visitors from the Pittsburgh and Ohio areas. Public visitation at the Ranger Station is high during the months of May to November, with an average of 30-40 visitors per day. An interpretive display here is a good opportunity for public exposure and education to resource management.

Plans for construction of an improved visitor reception area are underway for the Ranger Station, possibly being constructed in 1989. At such time as that is accomplished, professional quality wall displays will also be installed and a separate display on Loleta should be planned. It should include:

- Graphics and materials of a type that can't be used at the outdoor display at Loleta, such as historical maps, letters, documents, and fragile photos.

- It would be very appropriate to display and interpret a few significant or typical artifacts from Loleta in the Ranger Station display, such as sawblades, intact pottery, or bricks from the site.

- Authentic reproductions of some of Loleta's wood products such as milled lumber of various types, barrel headings, wood shingles, and broom handles could be displayed. Exhibit these items in a way that permits close viewing and handling by the visitor.

- Informational exhibits on other historic logging towns and railroad grades in the area might be included, in a way that illustrates just how prevalent these small towns and railroads were at the turn of the century.

- Information on the Forest Service's cultural resource management program may be displayed, emphasizing the "enjoy but don't destroy" message.

Bold lettering should be used and wordy narratives should be avoided. The objective of this display will be more than to provide a large volume highly detailed information. Rather, it should attract attention to a few significant facts and create an interest so the visitor will pursue further.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this report has been to draw attention to the interpretive opportunities in the area of cultural resource management by focusing on a specific opportunity at a National Forest site. Time constraints prevent the author from completing a more thorough site interpretation plan and timetable. However, this report contains sufficient detail to be used as a starting point for the implementation of the project.

It is hoped that the work accomplished herein will provide the impetus for the Allegheny National Forest to follow through with the interpretation of Loleta in the next few years. A draft action plan has been prepared and is included as Appendix A. It is recommended that the interpretation of Loleta be considered as an Integrated Project Set when Opportunity Area Analysis occurs for the Loleta area, under Region 9's Integrated Resource Management (IRM) process. This will give further credibility to the proposal and provide the means by which the project may obtain NEPA approval.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX	TITLE	PAGE
A	Action Plan for Loleta Interpretation Project	51
B	Visitor Survey	52
C	Cost Estimates for 7 Interpretive Options	54
D	Information on Metal Micro-imaging	55
E	Sample Interpretive Plaques	56

ACTION PLAN
For Implementing the Loleta Interpretive Plan

ACTION:	WHO:	COMPLETED BY: (Date)
1. Contract cultural resource survey and background research of the Loleta site.	Marienville RD	June 1988
2. Complete cultural resource evaluation of site and Archeologist make recommendations regarding suitability for interpretive site.	Forest Archeologist	December 1988
3. Include Loleta Interpretive Plan as an Integrated Project Set for NEPA approval under the Integrated Resource Management (IRM) process.	Marienville RD	June 1989
4. Coordinate design of Ranger Station display under the capital investment program when funding is requested for the Marienville Ranger Station renovation.	Marienville RD & SO Engineer	December 1989
(IF THE INTERPRETIVE PLAN PROJECT IS APPROVED UNDER I.R.M.)		
5. Submit capital investment project for construction of interpretive facilities at Loleta.	Marienville RD & SO Recreation	December 1989
6. With appropriated or available funds, accomplish steps 1 through 3 of the Loleta Interpretive Plan.	Marienville RD, SO Recreation, & Archeologist	Accomplish after NEPA & Archeologist approval.
7. Involve volunteers and local historical societies to assist with ongoing interpretation or special projects at Loleta	Marienville RD	Continuous

APPENDIX A - Action Plan for Loleta Interpretation

SURVEY OF VISITORS TO LOLETA
Regarding Interest in Site History

A limited survey was conducted during the months of September and October 1987 to determine the levels of interest in Loleta's history among visitors to the recreation area. Realizing its limited applicability, it still is helpful in establishing whether there is any interest in such a project among the public.

The survey questions listed below were used among all those surveyed. When possible, they were asked the questions directly by the campground host, who noted their replies. Others were returned by mail to the Forest Service. Responses are summarized on the following page.

********** VISITOR SURVEY: **********

Have you camped at Loleta before? YES___ NO___

If so, how many years have you been coming to Loleta? _____

Loleta Recreation Area is located on the site of a former logging town of over 600 residents. It existed for approximately 20 years, from 1898 to about 1920. Were you aware of this?
YES___ NO___

Are you aware that many visible signs of the former town of Loleta are still evident throughout the area? YES___ NO___

How does this fact influence your interest in Loleta?
NOT INTERESTED ____
MILDLY INTERESTED ____
HIGHLY INTERESTED ____

Would you be interested if the Forest Service had some kind of interpretive display or trail to describe the history of the town of Loleta? DON'T KNOW___ YES___ NO___

Do you think other visitors to Loleta would be interested in and support such a display or trail? DON'T KNOW___ YES___ NO___

Thank you for your cooperation.

Name & Address (Optional): _____

_____

_____

APPENDIX B - Visitor Survey

SURVEY RESULTS

Total number of visitors surveyed: 16

Have you camped at Loleta before? YES: 13 (81%) NO: 3 (19%)

If so, how many years have you been coming to Loleta? **Average: 5.1 years**

Loleta Recreation Area is located on the site of a former logging town of over 600 residents. It existed for approximately 20 years, from 1898 to about 1920. Were you aware of this?

	YES	NO
a. Previous visitors	11 (85%)	2 (15%)
b. First time visitors	1 (33%)	2 (67%)
TOTAL (Average)	12 (75%)	4 (25%)

Are you aware that many visible signs of the former town of Loleta are still evident throughout the area?

YES: 11 (69%) NO: 5 (31%)

How does this fact influence your interest in Loleta?

NOT INTERESTED	0 (0%)
MILDLY INTERESTED	3 (19%)
HIGHLY INTERESTED	13 (81%)

Would you be interested if the Forest Service had some kind of interpretive display or trail to describe the history of the town of Loleta?

DON'T KNOW =	1 (6%)
YES =	15 (94%)
NO =	0

Do you think other visitors to Loleta would be interested in and support such a display or trail?

DON'T KNOW =	2 (12%)
YES =	14 (88%)
NO =	0

COST ESTIMATES
Loleta Interpretive Alternatives

The following cost figures represent estimates of the expected costs of the various Interpretive Alternatives discussed in Parts 4 and 5.

1. **Interpretive display at entrance**. Utilize maps, photos, and other visual resources with narratives (based on Cultural Resource survey report) to describe the former town site in an attractively installed, roofed, and lighted outdoor display station.

COSTS:	1. Lighted and roofed display structure =	$3000
	2. Professionally designed graphics, photos, etc	
	a. Graphics & artwork =	$2500
	b. Visual display material costs =	$2500
		$8000

2. **Interpretive pamphlet** (for free distribution). A three-leaf folding pamphlet summarizes the Loleta story and includes graphics such as photos, illustrations, and maps.

COSTS:	1. Artwork =	$1500
	2. Publication =	$1500
		$3000

3. **On-Site Interpretation**. No bridges over Millstone Creek are assumed.

3a. **Self-guided trail with numbered stops.**

COSTS:	1. Trail Construction =	$9000
	2. Trail stops & signs =	$1000
	3. Pamphlet describing numbered stops =	$1000
		$11000

3b. **Self-guided trail with pedestals and descriptive plaques.**

COSTS:	1. Trail Construction =	$9000
	2. Trail stops (plaques) & signs =	$7000
		$16000

3c. **No trail - plaques located throughout the site.**

COSTS:	1. Plaques and pedestals =	$9000
		$9000

4. **Interpretive display at Ranger Station**. As part of the redesign of the Marienville RS visitor reception area, install a formal display possibly using artifacts from Loleta.

COSTS:	1. Graphics, Artwork, Design =	$5000
	2. Display panels =	$4000
		$9000

5. **Amphitheatre**. To be effective, costs must include the ongoing cost of providing regular interpretive programs at the facility.

COSTS:	1. Construction of amphitheatre (Seating for 100, stage, fire pit, electricity) =	$12000
	2. Annual cost for weekly summer programs =	$ 3000

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION

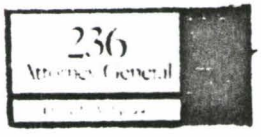
duratone
METAL MICRO-IMAGING

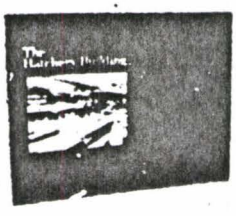
An aluminum alloy (5052) shall be used as base material. The alloy shall have a tensile strength of 3300 psi. The aluminum plate shall be processed through surface preparation operations sufficient to remove scratches, dings and imperfections.

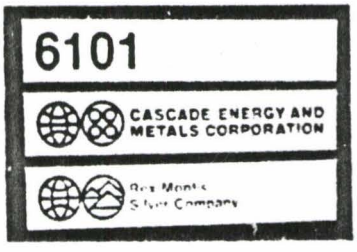
The prepared surface shall then be electrochemically treated in such a manner so as to produce a specifically colored hard corrosion resisting aluminum oxide surface of at least .8 mils thick. The image surface shall then be chemically milled leaving a detailed image in the surface of the metal.

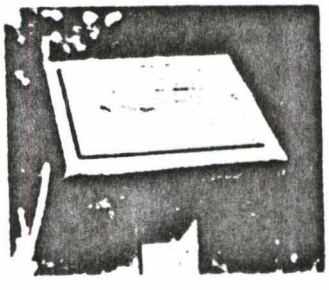
The chemically micro-imaged areas shall be anodized in accordance with Military Specification MIL-A-8625 C, Type II, Class 1 or 2, per customer's specifications. When a color is specified, the dye shall produce a sunfast color entirely suitable for exterior applications. The dyes must have been proven through actual exterior use in monumental architecture. Paint, plastic, or organic resins shall not be used to produce any of the markings or color on the finished material.

The completed material shall be capable of withstanding year-round weathering. The colored portion shall show no fading, flaking or chipping for an indefinite period excluding vandalism and acts of God.









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Using revolutionary micro-imaging and etching technology similar to that employed in the rapidly changing computer and micro-electronics industry, the manufacturers of **duratone** are able to permanently reproduce highly detailed images in metal. The result is a beautiful and extremely durable **signage** and **plaque** material, unmatched in permanent image quality and detail by any other sign product.

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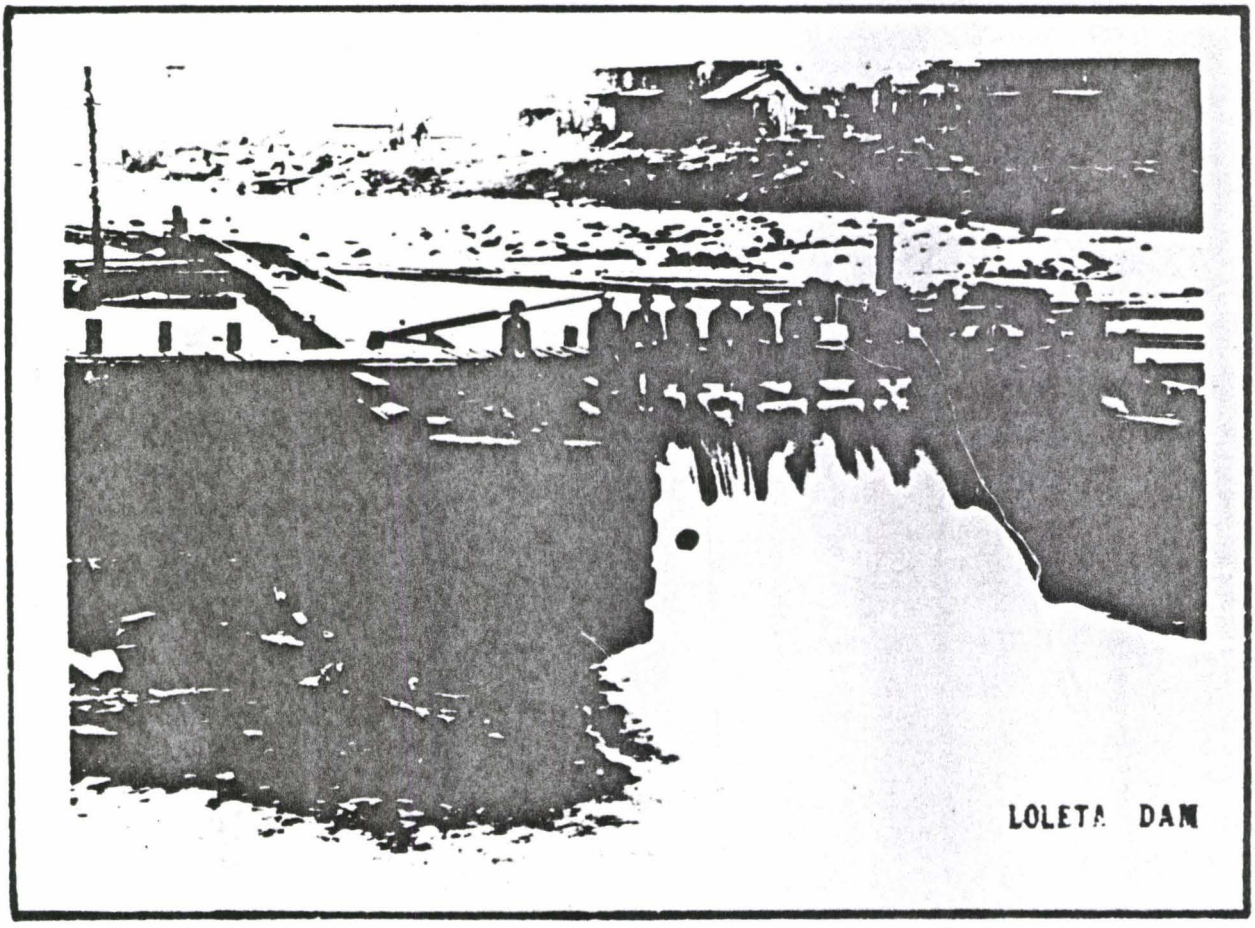
APPENDIX D - Metal Micro-imaging Information

LOLETA DAM
Then and Now

The existing dam and spillway was built in 1935 by the Civilian Conservation Corps to create the Loleta swimming area. The original dam stood approximately 10 feet high, creating a larger pool than today's dam. The mill pond was heated by steam from the mill and therefore did not freeze in the winter. Logs dumped into the pond from railroad cars were floated into the mill for processing.

The original Loleta dam, pictured below, was in the same approximate location as the modern dam. It was a "bracket dam", constructed entirely of hardwood logs, metal brackets, and rock ballast. Logs in the pond could be floated down Millstone Creek to the Clarion River by releasing the brackets. This created a sudden flood of water sufficient to carry most of the logs downstream to the Clarion River.

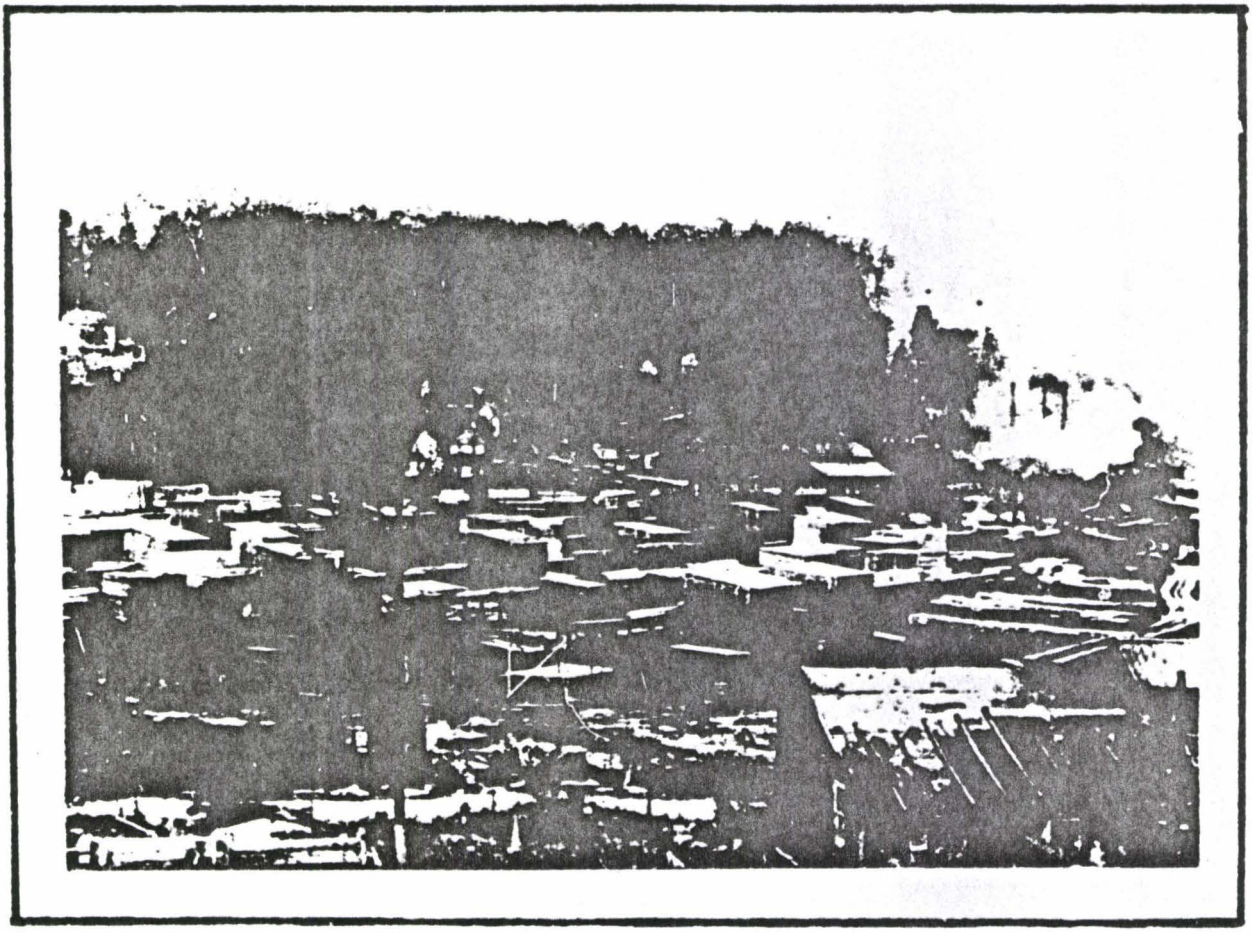


LOLETA DAM

APPENDIX E - Sample Interpretive Plaques

THE LOLETA LUMBER YARD
Then and Now

The lumber storage yard for Loleta's four mills once occupied the area extending from today's swimming area parking lot to a point 800 feet downstream from where you are now standing. The lumber yard occupied over 5 acres of land along the west bank of Millstone Creek. Over ---- thousand board feet could be stored here, which is enough to build -- average homes today. Lumber was transported from the mill to the yard by means of trolleys that were pushed to various locations in the yard on a network of railed wooden trolley platforms. If you were standing in this spot looking across the creek in 1910, you would see the lumber yard as pictured in the photograph below.



APPENDIX E - Sample Interpretive Plaques